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JESSE JAMES: "I NEVER NEEDED BILLY GUNN"

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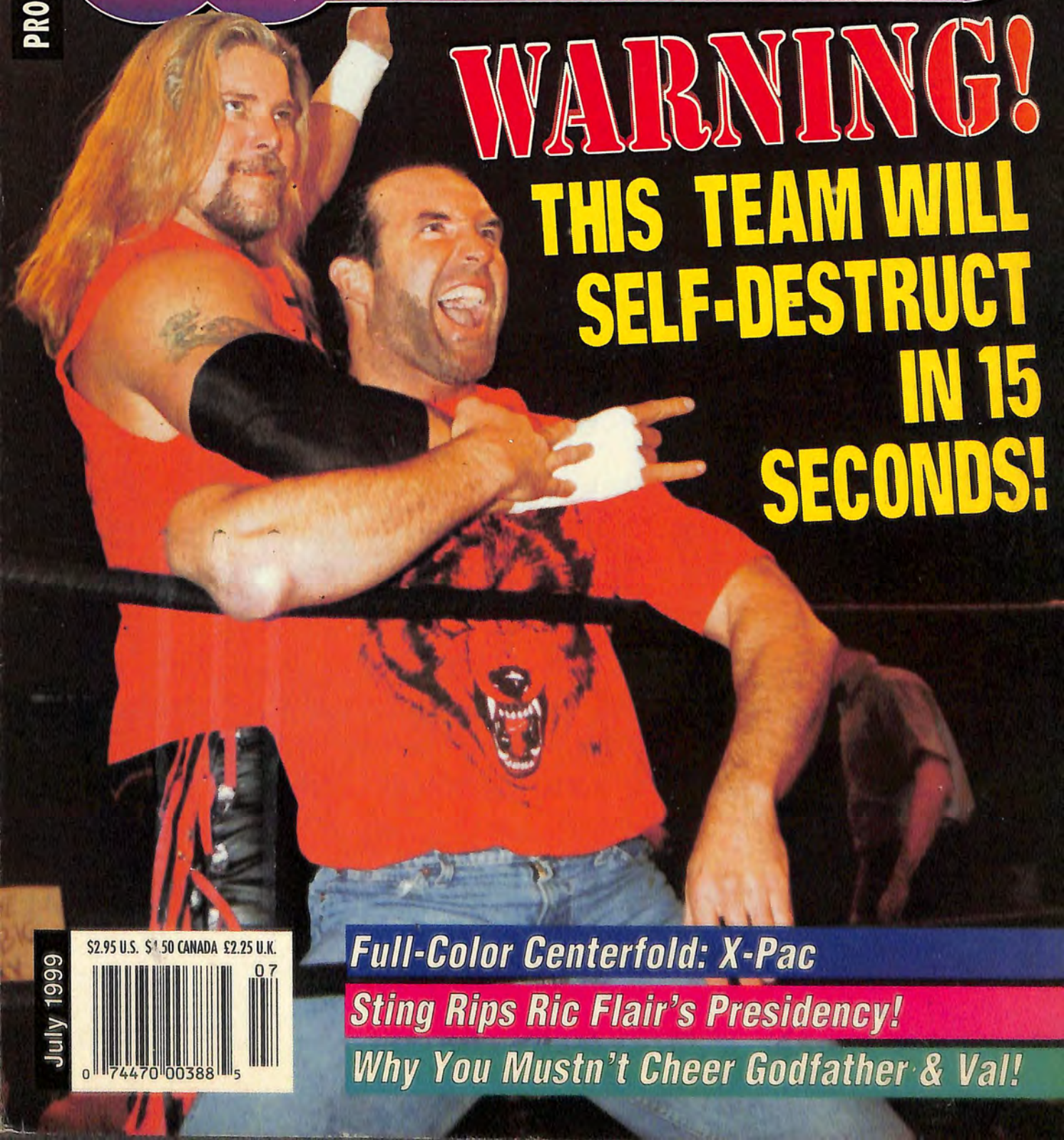

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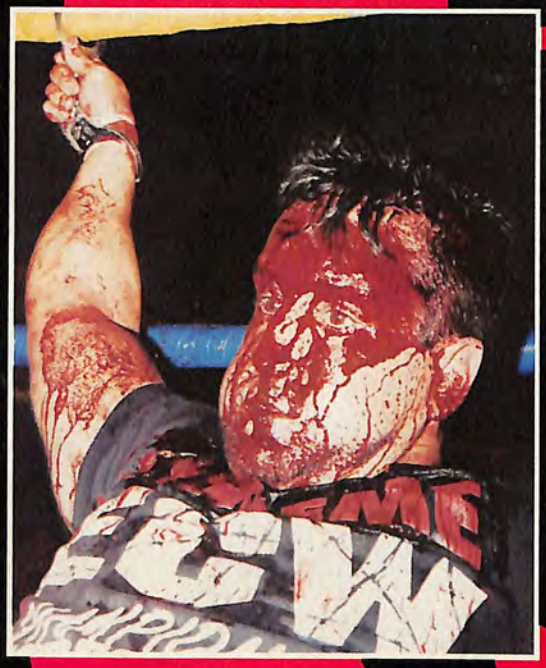

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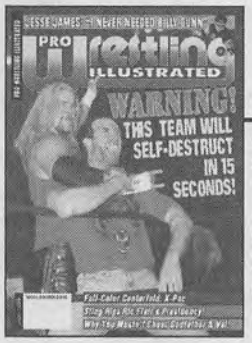

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Rebecca Plumb

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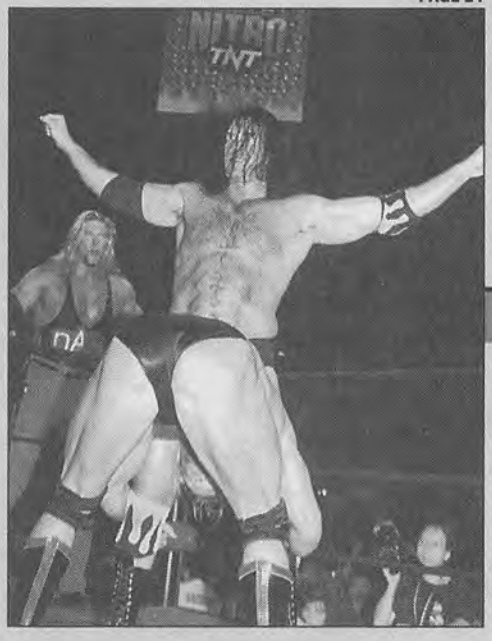

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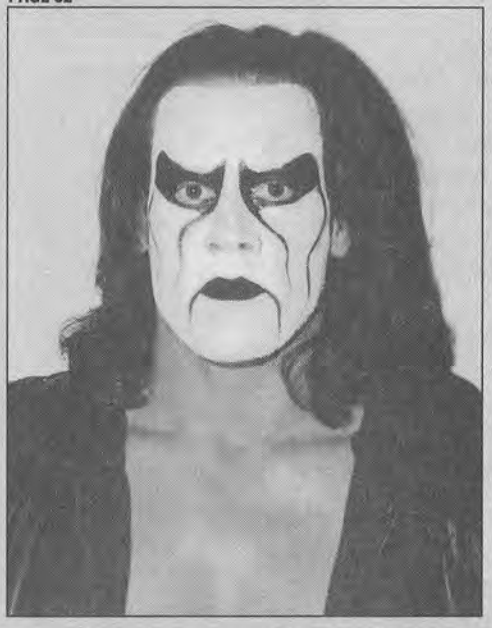

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FROM THE DESK OF...

WHEN BILL GOLDBERG went on *The Tonight Show* and called out Steve Austin, there were those who thought his challenge was as comical as Jay Leno's monologue. This, they assumed, was one of those Eric Bischoff-to-Vince McMahon Slamboree challenges, in which the man posing the challenge can say anything he wants because he knows there is no way that the challenged can doing anything about it.

No way McMahon was going to show up at Slamboree '98. No way Austin is going to accept Goldberg's challenge. No way there will ever be that "Mother Of All Pay-Per-Views" we speculated about in *The Wrestler's* October '98 edition. But the more thought I gave the matter, the more I came back to the same conclusion: There is no way we should ever say no way when it comes to the sport of pro wrestling.

How many of us, for instance, could have ever imagined Hulk Hogan leaving the WWF and signing with WCW? At this point, it's hard to imagine Hogan not being a part of the WCW fabric, but Hogan's jump from the WWF to WCW was akin to David Letterman jumping from NBC to CBS or Michael Jordan quitting basketball to play baseball. When Hogan was wrestling for the WWF, you would have said no way he'd ever wrestle for WCW. And you would have been wrong.

Think back and try to put out of your mind what you now know to be true. Wouldn't you have said ...

No way wrestling would ever be as popular as it was in the mid-'80s.

No way the WWF would ever use champions from other organizations.

No way WCW would ever eclipse the WWF as the king of the Monday night wars.

No way the WWF could ever reclaim its Monday night supremacy.

No way the WWF would acknowledge wrestlers in WCW.

No way Hulk Hogan would turn rulebreaker.

No way Vince McMahon would ever actually wrestle (let alone win the Royal Rumble).

No way a wrestling organization would own a Las Vegas casino.

No way Mike Tyson would ever be involved in wrestling.

No way a wrestler would ever be the cover feature in ***Playboy.***

No way a wrestler would ever admit that the entertainment aspect of what he does is as important as the sporting aspect.

No way Cactus Jack could be a big-time star in the WWF, let alone World champ.

No way a wrestler would ever be elected governor.

No way the WWF's world of "family entertainment" would evolve into what it has.

There's only one emotion known to man that is stronger than hatred: greed. Don't you think that at some point in time both Vince McMahon and Eric Bischoff have given some thought to how much money could be made by co-promoting that "Mother Of All Pay-Per-Views"? Sure, there would be huge obstacles to overcome, but for two men whose lives are motivated by money, don't you think they could find a way to work together, if for only one show? Didn't Bob Arum and Don King find a way to co-promote the first fight between Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran? Didn't the NFL and AFL get together for the sake of the Super Bowl?

It can happen, and, dare I say, it *will* happen: Austin might not accept Goldberg's challenge right now, but at some point, despite all the mudslinging, lawsuits, and raging egos, the WWF and WCW will promote the ultimate supercard. Things might go back to the way they were immediately after the show (I sure hope so!), but one day you will see Vince McMahon and Eric Bischoff standing at the same podium, flashing their million-dollar smiles, and making the announcement to which most of us would have said, "No way!"

Stu Saks
Publisher

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STANLEY WESTON
Founder

PUBLISHER
Stuart M. Saks

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
David Lenker

SENIOR EDITOR
Bill Apter

MANAGING EDITOR
Brandi Mankiewicz

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Frank Krewda

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ART DIRECTORS
Joseph Kalman
Tracy Fedorowicz
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PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR
Cliff Campo

PRE-PRESS ASSOCIATE
Alex Bryniarski

PHOTO EDITOR
Frank Vitucci

SENIOR WRITERS
Steve Anderson
Harry Burkett
Bryan Ethier
Dan Murphy
David Rosenbaum

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Matt Brock
Elizabeth A. Hunter

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Will Welsh

VICE PRESIDENT/ MARKETING
David Gerhardt

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT/CIRCULATION
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Sharon Liggio
(215) 643-6385

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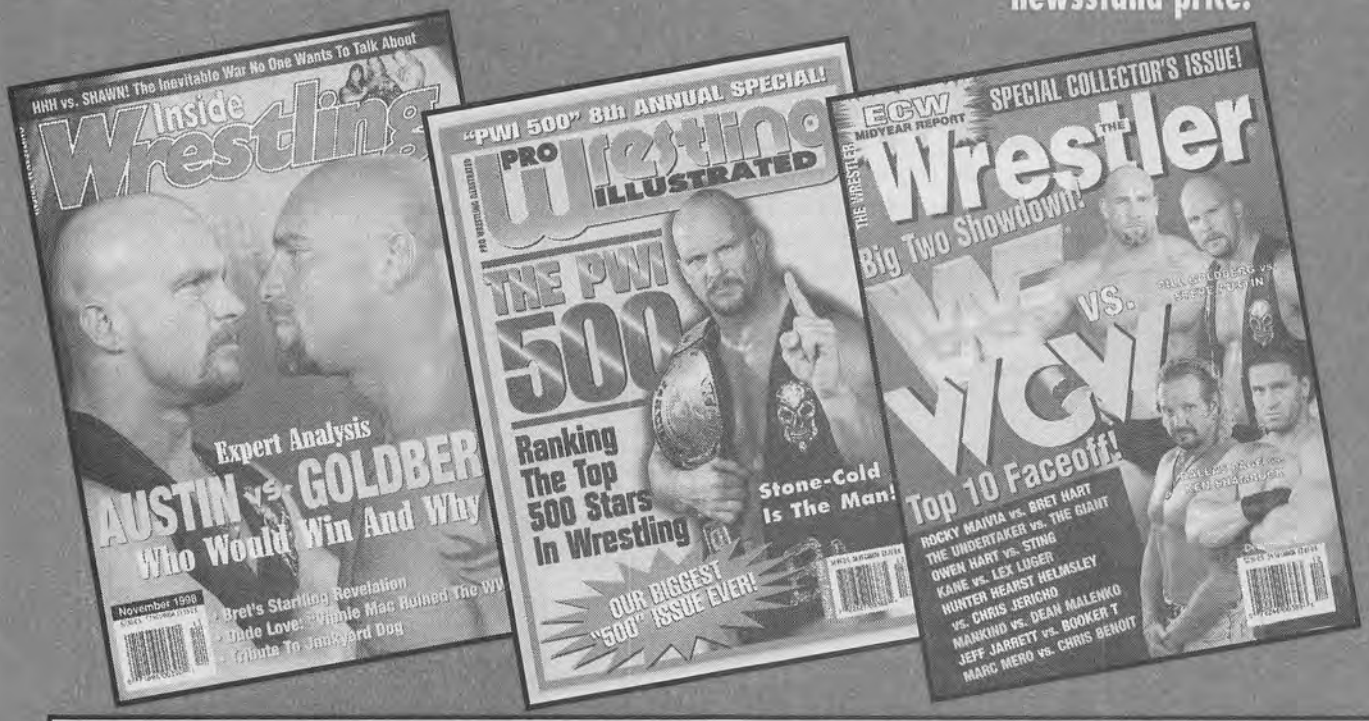
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Top 10 Faceoff!
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THE UNDERTAKER vs. THE GIANT
OWEN HART vs. STING
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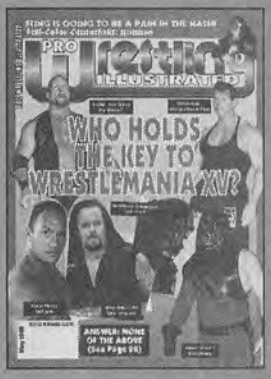
THE SHOWSTOPPER



Despite Shawn Michaels' infrequent appearances on *Raw Is War* and the fact that his wrestling appears to be over following major back surgery, the editorial staff at *PWI* had a feeling that "The Heartbreak Kid" would somehow find his way to center stage at WrestleMania XV. On the May 1999 cover we asked, "Who Holds The Key To WrestleMania XV?" but knew it was Michaels all along.

"I'm surprised you guys would even give Shawn Michaels that much consideration," e-mailed Tammy Harkins of Pitman, New Jersey. "He's not even an active wrestler anymore."

"When I looked at the cover, I saw McMahon, Maivia, Kane, Undertaker, Austin, and Mankind. I didn't even think about Michaels," wrote Ken Boyle of Houston. "But after I read the article, it made perfect sense. Michaels is the commissioner, right?"

"I knew it'd be Michaels before I even opened the magazine," complained Fred Crumb Jr. of Casper, Wyoming. "He always has to be in the spotlight."

WWF BASHING

What the hell is the WWF's problem? They've come up with the guy named "Gillberg." I guess they've decided that since they know nobody in the WWF will ever compare to the unstoppable Goldberg, the next best thing to do is make fun of him.

I am also appalled that people actually think that Steve Austin could beat Goldberg. The last time I checked, Goldberg never lost to "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan in 29 seconds.

COLIN DICKINSON
Beavercreek, OH

It was ridiculous listening to The Undertaker refer to himself as "The Lord Of Darkness" and then having to watch the mock crucifixion scene! Come on, WWF! Don't you pay attention to who your fans are?

When my friends and I go to one of your cards, we don't go for our own enjoyment; we go for the enjoyment of our children. When we buy souvenirs, we buy them for our children. You are losing the most important part of your fan base—families with children.

I want to take this opportunity to thank World Championship Wrestling for continuing to put on a family-oriented program that I can sit down and watch with my five-year-old daughter. I want to thank WCW for having a hero like "Diamond" Dallas Page, whom my daughter absolutely loves. Keep up the good work, WCW, and may you bypass the WWF in the ratings once again. Do not worry, if the WWF continues to put on a show of the current quality; it will only be a matter of time.

STEPHANIE DARNELL
Greeneville, TN

ECW DEFENDER

I just happened to be thumbing through the January 1999 issue of *PWI* when I came across something that made me very mad. It was a letter from Brandon Guffey of Columbia, Missouri ("Unimpressed").

How could you guys publish this letter? I couldn't believe the way he put down ECW and insulted Joey Styles!

First, ECW runs shows in Japan as well as in the United States and has always deserved world title status. Also, ECW caters to a more mature audience. That is why Paul Heyman allows the wrestlers to curse (even though most of it is censored when aired). And to refute your statement that using shopping carts as weapons is ridiculous, the fact is, the more bizarre, insane, or wacky things get, the more

"Oh my god!" Some wrestling fans consider ECW announcer Joey Styles' use of his favorite expression a bit extreme. Reader Michael Patron was quick to come to Styles' and ECW's defense.

the ECW fans love it. And for your information, Brandon, I can only recall a shopping cart being used in the ring once.

Finally, whenever you hear "Oh my God!" it usually comes after something shocking or intense, whether it be a bloody chair shot, a double-stacked table smashing, or even two guys falling through the ring or a raised walkway.

So, Brandon, if you can't think of anything kind to write, keep your pen closed and your mouth shut. Don't ever insult ECW, or this fine publication, or its sister magazines again.

MICHAEL PATRON
Middletown, NJ

THE TOTAL ENIGMA

Even though I consider myself to be one of Lex Luger's loyal fans, he has proven once again to be an enigma.

Lex, just last year you called the NWO a group of "gutless thugs." But now that the black and red and black and white have reunited, you don't seem to have any objections to joining this group of "gutless thugs."

Furthermore, last year you called Hollywood Hogan "trash." Lex, have you noticed by any chance that this piece of "trash" is now your leader?

Really, Lex, what are you thinking? Sometimes I think that those big muscles of yours have stopped the flow of oxygen to your brain. You are a much better man than any of those goons who follow Hogan like sheep.

Please stop this insanity and go back to fighting for WCW. Stand up like the man I know you can be and show the world that you are not just another "gutless thug" hiding behind the NWO.

JANE POLSTON
Waco, TX

MORE INDIES, PLEASE

I recently attended a Southern Championship Wrestling event. For those of you who don't know about SCW, it is an independent wrestling federation that holds events all over the South. I've attended WWF shows and WCW shows, but they were no match for SCW's show.

Wrestlers such as Toad, Venom, C.W. Anderson, Christian York, The Serial Thrillaz, and Juice are much better than many of the stars currently seen in the WWF, WCW, and ECW. I am asking *PWI,* which is without a doubt the best wrestling magazine around, to please give this great organization a little recognition.

MIKE MIHALKO
Cary, NC

I agree with reader Chris Revier ("Reckless Fan," April 1999) when he says that independent stars like Reckless Youth should get more coverage in your magazine. I went to a Steel City Wrestling show recently and met Reckless, Mike Quackenbush, Julio Sanchez, and Don Montoya. They were not just good wrestlers, but nice people, too. Quackenbush even let me get him in the katahajimi.

Maybe your magazine should do an independent report similar to the Japanese and Mexican reports. The independents are the minor leagues of wrestling and deserve more focus.

HAROLD PAVLICK
Erie, PA

Reckless Youth subdues Atlas Rivera with an armbar during a match that was described as a real thriller by those who saw it. Several fans have asked us to give wrestlers such as Reckless and Rivera more coverage.

PROUD JERICHOHOLIC

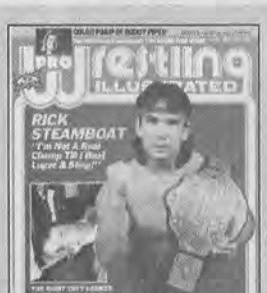
In the March 1999 issue of *PWI,* Jacky Brammer expressed her disgust with Chris Jericho's placement in the *"PWI* 500" ("'500' Fanfare"). "Maybe," she said, "the creators of the most current '500' need to check out Jericho's matches." Well, in response, maybe Jacky should check out some of Jericho's matches, too.

Chris Jericho is one of the most talented wrestlers I have ever seen. Like him or not, his matches are consistently good, and he never fails to impress audiences with his technical and high-flying abilities. "Lion Heart" can make even the least talented grapplers look good in the ring when they take him on.

In my opinion, Jacky only got it half-right. Jericho given number 10? That is a joke. He should have placed much higher.

STEPHANIE PRAYLE
Merseyside, England □

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI



The cover of the July 1989 issue featured newly crowned NWA World champion Rick Steamboat, who said that he would not feel like a true champion until he defeated his close friends Lex Luger and Sting, because they would provide the greatest challenges to his title. "The Dragon" shared the cover with a flattened Hulk Hogan, who was carried away from the ring on a stretcher after Dino Bravo refused to break a bearhug.

Elsewhere in the magazine: Readers found out why Big John Studd was deathly afraid of Andre the Giant and how "Diamond" Dallas Page almost ruined Don Muraco ... Roddy Piper graced the centerfold ... Manager Paul E. Dangerously discussed his acquisition of The Samoan Swat Team, his hatred of rival manager Jim Cornette, and much more in "Press Conference" ... *PWI* ran its first-ever Dream Tournament.

Availability: Limited.

RINGSIDE

With Bill Apter

EVEN THOUGH HE was battered and bloodied by **"Stone-Cold" Steve Austin** at the St. Valentine's Day Massacre pay-per-view, **Vince McMahon** is eager to get back into the ring as a wrestler.

"He's training hard every day, this time for tag team competition," McMahon "stooge" **Gerald Brisco** told me. "Mr. Mac-Mahon will be ready to issue a challenge to DX somewhere within the next few weeks. Oh, and by the way, he's got a great tag team partner, his son, **Shane**."

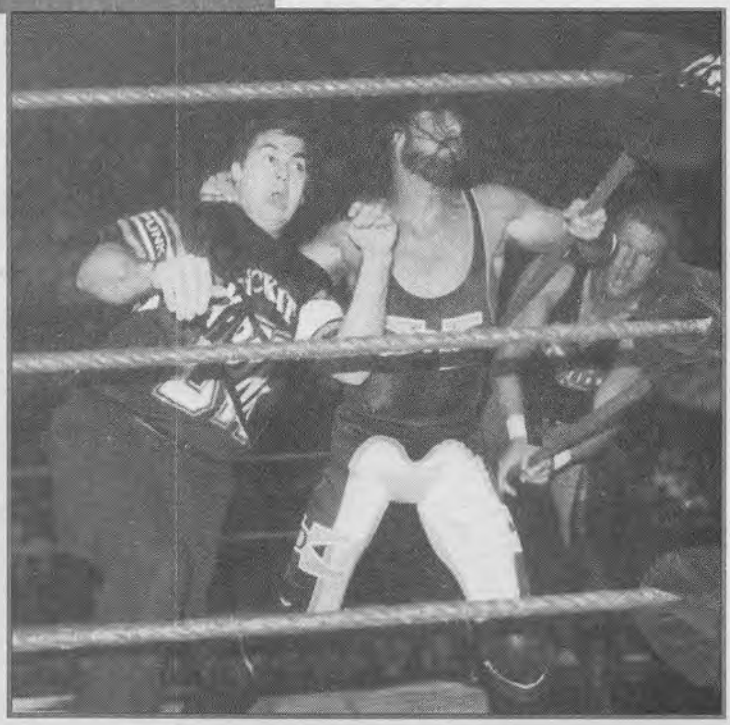
Since winning the European title on a fluke from **X-Pac**, the younger McMahon has become even more cocky. He actually believes he can defeat anyone in the WWF.

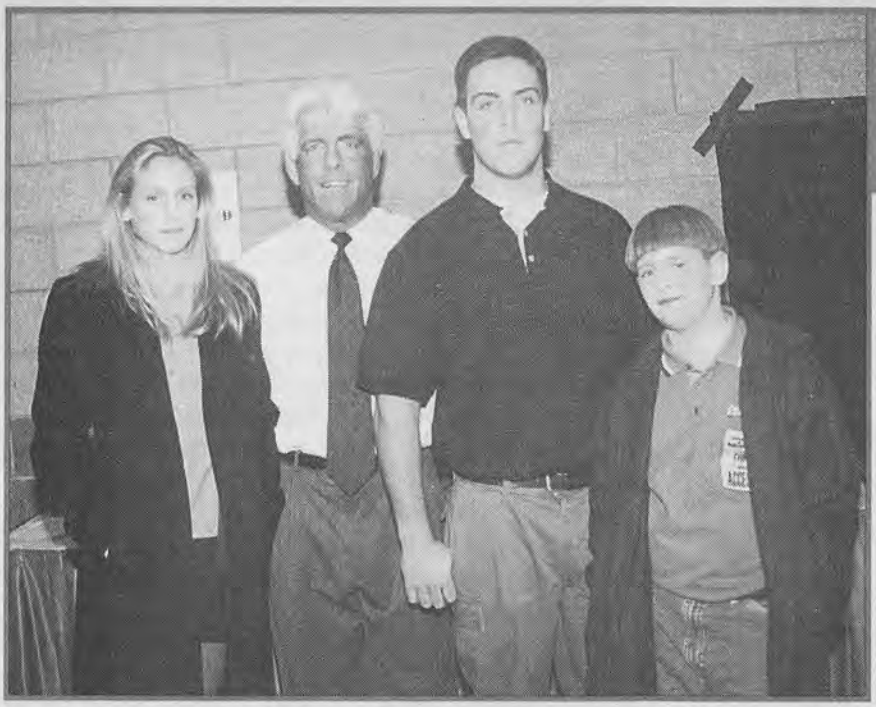
"My father and I will show DeGeneration X, with force if necessary, that it is indeed the corporate structure that dominates the World Wrestling Federation," Shane told the press recently. "There is really no place for the immature high school antics of DX here in the WWF. Their disgraceful attitudes must be dealt with via a good, swift, solid beating like only my dad and I can dish out."

David Flair's attack on his father at SuperBrawl IX was one of the most reprehensible incidents I've witnessed in my 28 years covering the sport. I've known David since he was a child and always admired the great relationship he had with his father.

"He's still a child," a concerned **Ric Flair** told me a few days after the despicable assault. "**Hollywood Hogan** and **Kevin Nash** set up that beautiful girl to turn on the charm, and that can get a young man to do anything, including turning his back on his parents. They've sold him a bad bill of goods, but David is too immature to realize it. Your mother,

Apparently the beating Vince McMahon absorbed at the hands of Steve Austin at St. Valentine's Day Massacre (left) didn't sour him on the idea of wrestling again. We could be seeing him and son Shane (below, vs. X-Pac) competing as a team.





A month before SuperBrawl, David Flair was happy to pose with his father, Ric, sister, Brittany, and little brother, Reid. Now father and son are on anything but good terms, though Ric is still hoping for a reconciliation.

your sister, **Brittany**, and your brother, **Reid**, can't understand what you've done, but all I can say is, 'Son, I've walked the same walk you're walkin' now. It's gonna take some time, but you'll smarten up and come back to the values your mother and I instilled in you. That door is always open."

David refused to discuss the possibility of a reconciliation, but he did tell me that "the NWO has opened up a world I always dreamed about and never was able to see with my father hanging around me all the time. I've got a beautiful woman at my side and a bunch of friends who like to party and aren't always telling me it's past my bedtime just when things are getting hot. Ladies, Space Mountain Part II has arrived, and it's a lot better than the original!"

Antonio Inoki's Universal Fighting Arts Organization is now working together with the National Wrestling Alliance. "I foresee many great matchups between our champion, **Dan Severn**, and their wrestling and martial arts experts, men such as **Naoya Ogawa**," NWA President **Howard Brody** said. "I feel this deal will help bring the NWA back into the mainstream again."

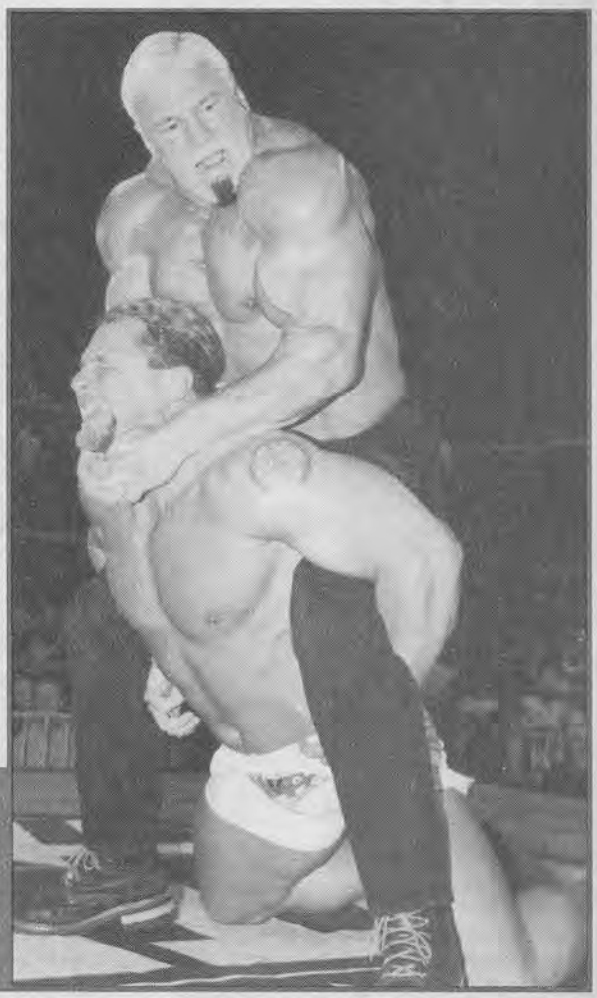
Added Inoki: "The NWA is a highly respectable organization. Although the NWA has tried in the past few years to expand to the global proportions it once enjoyed, it was unable to do it before this joint venture. Mr. Severn and many other NWA wrestlers are now welcome to UFO shows in the Orient. We look forward to helping the NWA with our international contacts and making it a premier federation in our great sport."

WCW TV champion **Scott Steiner** admits that there is one thing that he is afraid to do: ask for a shot at the WCW World title, which is held by his good friend **Hollywood Hogan**.

"I don't want to cause a problem in either our friendship or our professional relationship, but that World belt is my destiny," he said.

"'Big Poppa Pump' just has to be cool for a while," said Hogan. "I'm running out of worthy contenders, and soon I'll put this hunk of tin up in a tournament, with him and every WCW guy entered. I see it now: 'Big Poppa' eliminates **Bill Goldberg**, **Sting**, **Dallas Page**, **Bret Hart**, and of course pretty little **Rey Misterio**! Then Hollywood has the pleasure of putting the belt

(Continued on page 54)



Would Scott Steiner like to put Hollywood Hogan in his Steiner recliner? No way. They're too close. But he admits that he covets Hogan's WCW World title belt.

in focus

By Dave Lenker

IF JESSE CAN DO IT ...

Just like there were "(Fill in the blank) World Orders" cropping up in promotions all around the country in the months following the formation of the New World Order in 1996, you knew there'd be many a wrestler saying, "If Jesse Ventura can get himself elected governor of Minnesota, I ought to run for office somewhere."

And there has been. Most of those who have talked about running for office don't deserve mention. They're just looking for some cheap and undeserved publicity. Then there's Jerry Lawler, who might really run for mayor in Memphis, and Ric Flair, who has already talked to some people in the Republican Party about running for office in Charlotte.

Now there's Bob Backlund.

Believe it or not, he'll be running for Congress in Connecticut in 2000 as a Republican. And listen to this quote:

"I can certainly tell you that I think Bob is as qualified as many of the people I've seen running for office. I've always found him to be an honorable, straightforward man, and that will serve him well."

That's what WWF CEO Linda McMahon (Vince's wife) told the *Hartford Courant*. Isn't this a guy who campaigned (and I use that word loosely) for President in 1996 by walking through arenas during WWF shows and screaming at fans? Isn't this the guy who used so many big words in his speeches that no one had any idea what he was talking about?

Granted, the Bob Backlund we saw in the WWF a few years ago isn't exactly the same Bob Backlund we'd get in Congress. He's a little less, *uh,* animated outside the world of wrestling. Would I vote for him if I lived in the 1st District of Connecticut? I don't know nearly enough about his political views to answer that right now. But I do know enough about him to tell you that he has a chance to be an excellent politician. I know he's intelligent, and I know he's the kind of man who would put in a lot of time to make sure he fully understood all the issues about which he'd making decisions.

Unfortunately, in some ways, he might even have a tougher road to election than Jesse Ventura. Jesse became the popular choice for many Minnesotans who wanted an alternative to career politicians. He was the cool candidate who had done a lot of cool things. He wrestled, had a stint as a Navy SEAL, did a few movies, worked as a broadcaster, and had just enough political experience to be right for the job. Supporting Jesse eventually became the "in" thing to do.

When Backlund talks (in a normal voice), he

In 1996, Bob Backlund tried to make us believe his presidential campaign was legitimate when it really wasn't. His bid for a seat in Congress in 2000 will be legitimate, though.

sounds a lot like a career politician. And he's never been cool (remember when fans used to call him "Howdy Doody" in the late-1970s and early-'80s?), despite the fact that he was one of the greatest WWF champions of all-time. Another major problem: His district has long been a Democratic stronghold. Imagine that—a wrestler losing an election in part because he was too normal.

Could happen next year in Connecticut.

GET IT?

By now the controversy over the WWF's Super Bowl commercial has subsided, and thank goodness for that. I could understand why some people were offended by the part of the commercial that showed a man and a woman on a desk apparently engaged in activity that men and women aren't supposed to engage in on a desk at the office.

That may have been inappropriate, but so was the comment of Morality in Media President Robert W. Peters, who called the spot "one of the most vile commercials ever aired on network TV." He's entitled to his opinion, but when he admitted he made the comment before viewing the commercial, he made himself look like a fool.

There were more than a half-dozen concepts for the commercial discussed last fall, but the one that David Sahadi came up with was the one the boss liked the best. But according to Sahadi, who served as the producer, creative director, and co-director of the spot, Fox initially told the WWF it would *not* accept the commercial, but Vince McMahon made a telephone call and convinced the network to change its thinking about four hours later.

As a backup, Sahadi explained, the WWF also shot a less risque backup version in which the controversial man in question was only "giving the woman attention" as Sable walked by and told the camera the WWF never uses sex to sell its product.

I was surprised the commercial was judged just the 29th best of the 52 that aired during the Super Bowl telecast, this according to *USA Today's* Super Bowl Ad Meter. I assume quite a few of the 150 participants in the Ad Meter (they used hand-held meters to record their second-by-second reactions to each commercial) were non-wrestling fans.

I was even more surprised when I found out later that the WWF got no outside help in producing the commercial, which tells you how good Sahadi and the rest of the members of the production staff are, and that Mike Jones, the stunt man who took the fall out of the window of Titan Towers did the stunt with a broken back and a broken wrist he had suffered a few weeks earlier.

It wasn't until seconds before he crashed through the window that Jones, who was sporting a cast on his wrist, let Sahadi and the rest of the crew know about his back problems. In other words, it was too late to stop him from doing it.

"I just thought the guy was battered or whatever, but he said, 'You should know that I have a broken wrist and a broken back, and that I'm allergic to penicillin," Sahadi recalled. Then he took the plunge—and added only a sprained knee to his list of injuries. Hey, the guy was going to be in a Super Bowl commercial. A sprained knee was a small price to pay!

It took about three days of shooting, but the commercial finally got done, and the reaction at Titan Towers was overwhelmingly positive.

"Vince and the marketing people were ecstatic about it," said Sahadi.

One more interesting story: On the day McMahon's scene was filmed, it was snowing in Stamford, Connecticut. But when the WWF owner finally went outside and prepared to get in front of the camera, the sun made an appearance. When he returned to his office, inclement weather returned. I'm not sure if that was symbolic of anything.

As for the commercial itself, yeah, I got it. □

Photo courtesy of TitanSports

The man who took this big fall during the filming of the WWF's Super Bowl commercial was Mike Jones. Would you believe the stunt man broke his back ... just a few weeks *before* doing this stunt?

BACK ISSUES OF *PRO*

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June 1984: The Carnage Continues: Why The NWA Is Afraid To Stop Ted DiBiase. Centerfold: Dick Slater. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Magnum-II, Patera & Blackwell-Rock 'n' Rolls, One Man Gang.

July 1984: Jimmy Valiant's Message To The Fans: "It's Time For You To Boogie Woogie!" Centerfold: Paul Ellering. Plus: Fabulous Ones-Rock 'n' Rolls, Junkyard Dog, Sheik Al-Kaissie, Barry Windham.

February 1985: AWA World Champion Rick Martel: Five Steps To Greatness. Centerfold: Magnum T.A. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Blanchard-Rhodes, Bob Backlund, Paul Ellering.

April 1985: Jimmy Snuka: "I Want Piper!"—Even If It Kills The Tonga Kid. Centerfold: Ronnie Garvin. Plus: Flair-Rhodes, Terry Gordy, Jim Garvin, Road Warriors.

September 1985: Magnum T.A.: He's Got Millions Of Fans, But He's The Loneliest Man In Wrestling. Centerfold: Junkyard Dog. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Von Erich-Adams, Hacksaw Duggan.

June 1987: Magnum T.A.'s Message To The Fans: "Thank You For Your Prayers." Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: Martel & Zenk, Hayes & Gordy, Scott Hall, Road Warriors.

October 1987: Dump The Horsemen, Flair—A True Champion Stands On His Own. Centerfold: Ted DiBiase. Plus: Hogan-Steamboat, Steve Williams, NWA & WWF.

November 1987: When The Going Gets Tough ... Will Nikita Koloff Turn Bad Again? Centerfold: George Steele. Plus: Road Warriors, Hulk Hogan, Jimmy Hart, Barry Windham.

June 1988: Is The End Near For Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: Tully Blanchard. Plus: Midnight Rockers-Kelly & Kiniski, Al Perez, Dusty Rhodes, Magnificent Muraco.

August 1988: Macho Madness—The Torch Is Passed. Centerfold: Al Perez. Plus: Kerry Von Erich, Bruno Sammartino, Luger & Windham, Eddie Gilbert.

November 1988: He's Back! But Is Savage's Belt Beyond Hulk's Reach? Centerfold: Midnight Express. Plus: Madusa-Hyatt, Rock 'n' Rolls, Dusty Rhodes, Warlord & Barbarian-Ax & Smash, Kevin Von Erich & Jessica McClure.

December 1988: The Four Horsemen's Revolving Door—Who's The Next To Go? Centerfold: Hacksaw Duggan. Plus: Jerry Lawler, Precious, Bam Bam Bigelow, Bruiser Brody, Intercontinental tag title.

June 1989: Hogan vs. Savage—WrestleMania V Preview. Centerfold: Rick Steamboat. Plus: Dustin Rhodes, Road Warriors, Larry Zbyszko, Rock 'n' Rolls-British Bulldogs.

July 1989: Rick Steamboat: "I'm Not A Real Champ Till I Beat Luger & Sting. Centerfold: Roddy Piper. Plus: Paul E. Dangerously, John Studd, Dallas Page.

August 1989: Super Sunday—Hulkamania Reborn! Ultimate Warrior Dethroned! NWA Stunner! Centerfold: Lex Luger. Plus: Steamboat-Flair, Dusty Rhodes.

October 1989: Muscle-For-Muscle, Who's More Awesome—Luger Or Hogan? Centerfold: Rick Rude. Plus: Sting, Jimmy Snuka, Lawler-Perez, Dallas Page.

November 1989: Dusty Rhodes—Alone And In Danger. Centerfold: Ric Flair. Plus: Luger-Steamboat, Ultimate Warrior, Robert Fuller, Rick Steiner.

January 1990: Warrior's Next Victim: Hulk Hogan? Centerfold: Sid Vicious. Plus: Kerry Von Erich, Jim Ross, Midnight Express.

February 1990: Luger's Holiday Gift For Flair: Has The "Total Package" Wrapped Up The NWA Title? Centerfold: Bret Hart. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Woman, Hennig-Beefcake, Toni Adams.

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April 1990: *PWI* Wrestler Of The Decade: Why Lex Luger Couldn't Ruin Ric Flair's Greatest Day. Centerfold: Dusty Rhodes. Plus: Rockers, Hogan-Hennig, Jerry Lawler.

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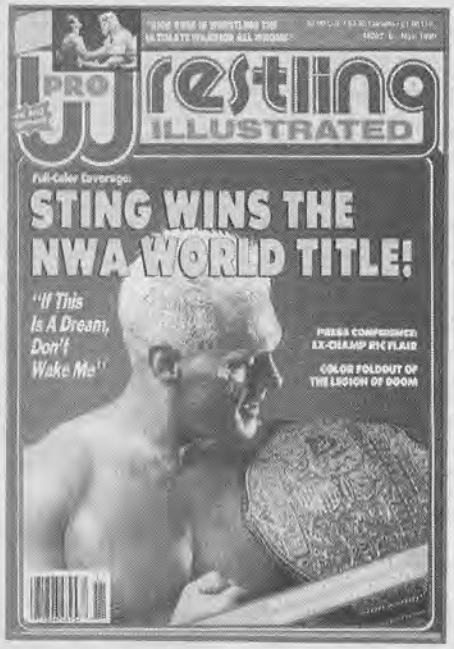
June 1990: Hogan vs. Warrior: Why WrestleMania VI Won't Settle This Feud. Centerfold: Sting. Plus: Nikita Koloff, Cornette-Rock 'n' Rolls, Rhodes-Savage, Anderson-Sawyer, boxers vs. wrestlers.



July 1990: The Maturing Of Lex Luger: The "Total Package" Becomes The People's Choice. Centerfold: Rick Martel. Plus: Skyscrapers, Bobby Heenan, Mr. Saito, referees.

September 1990: The Hulkster's Wrath: 7,000 Miles To Violent Redemption. Centerfold: The Steiners. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Sting, Destruction Crew, Four Horsemen, Curt Hennig.

October 1990: Sting's Painful Lesson: You'll Have No Friends At The Top. Centerfold: Brutus Beefcake. Plus: Orndorff-Blanchard, Tugboat, Teddy Long, Ultimate Warrior, Road Warriors.

November 1990: Sting Wins The NWA World Title! "If This Is A Dream, Don't Wake Me." Centerfold: Road Warriors. Plus: Rude-Warrior, Ric Flair, Funk-Hansen, muscle and power.

February 1991: WrestleMania VII Contest. Centerfold: 1991 calendar. Plus: Sid Vicious, DiBiase-Rhodes, Scott Steiner, Power & Glory, Terry Funk.

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May 1991: WrestleMania VII Shocker! Who Is Secretly Plotting To Destroy Hulk Hogan Before March 24? Centerfold: Arn Anderson. Plus: Rick Rude, Flair-Sting, Lou Thesz, Rick Steamboat.

June 1991: Hulk Hogan: America's Hero. Centerfold: Hacksaw Duggan. Plus: Cactus Jack, Ric Flair, Nasty Boys, Steiners, Simmons-Reed.

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February 1992: Has Hulk Hogan Had Enough? Centerfold: 1992 calendar. Plus: Sting, Justice-Roberts, hot prospects, Eddie Gilbert.

May 1992: Revitalized In Tokyo: Hulk Hogan Is Super-Psyched For WrestleMania VII! Centerfold: Rick Rude. Plus: Sting & Muta-Steiners, Jarrett & Fuller, Lightning Kid, Randy Savage, intimidation.

June 1992: Exclusive *PWI* Interview: Roddy Piper Speaks Out! Centerfold: Dustin Rhodes. Plus: Dangerously-Sting, Abdullah-Cactus, Sid Justice, Randy Savage.

July 1992: The Best Of The Best—The Masters Of Their Craft. Centerfold: Randy Savage. Plus: Liger-Pillman, Jim Neidhart, U.S.-Japan, Ric Flair.

September 1992: Savage vs. Sting: Why It Isn't That Unlikely. Centerfold: Nikita Koloff. Plus: Steiners, Barry Windham, Sid Justice, Hodge & Weston, Shawn Michaels.

October 1992: The Hatred Still Runs Deep: Ultimate Warrior vs. Randy Savage—They'll Settle Up At SummerSlam! Centerfold: Cactus Jack. Plus: Steve Williams, Tom Zenk, WWF title controversy, fire match, Eric Embry.

November 1992: The British Bulldog: Hounding The Hitman. Centerfold: Ultimate Warrior. Plus: Honky Tonk Man, Steiners, Undertaker, Madusa, perfect wrestler.

January 1993: New WWF World Champion Ric Flair: His SummerSlam Plan Works To Perfection. Centerfold: Jeff Jarrett. Plus: Ron Simmons, Kerry Von Erich, Rude-Roberts-Steamboat.

February 1993: No One Can Cut Down Razor Ramon. Centerfold: Curt Hennig. Plus: Jake Roberts, Pillman-Dustin, Ric Flair-Road Warriors, Rick Rude, Snuka-Muraco.

April 1993: The Steiners: Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Wrestling's Most Awesome Tag Team. Centerfold: Barry Windham. Plus: Bob Backlund, Sting-Muta, Hawk & Sasaki, Davey Boy Smith.

May 1993: WrestleMania Without Hulk Hogan?

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April 1996: WCW World Title Turmoil. Centerfold: The Kid. Plus: Hulk Hogan, Ahmed Johnson, Bob Armstrong, Michaels-Bret, Public Enemy.

May 1996: Un-Natural! The WWF Has Finally Gone Too Far! Centerfold: Public Enemy. Plus: Jeff Jarrett, Dreamer-Raven, Dan Severn, Ric Flair, Giant.

July 1996: Is Shawn Michaels Leaving The WWF? Centerfold: Lex Luger. Plus: Goldust, Hulk Hogan, Giant, Ric Flair.

October 1996: Peaking Too Soon: Will The Giant Be Ruined By His Own Success? Centerfold: Goldust. Plus: Big Van Vader, Ric Flair, Bulldog, Lex Luger.

November 1996: Giant-Michaels: The War To End All Wars. Centerfold: Dreamer, Beulah, Kimona. Plus: Sunny, Bret Hart, World Peace Festival, Yoshi Kwan.

December 1996: The Truth Hurts: Hulk Hogan Is Right! Centerfold: Steve Austin. Plus: Undertaker-Bearer-Mankind, Sting, Ahmed Johnson, Col. Parker.

Winter 1996 (Special Issue): *PWI* 500. Centerfold: Shawn Michaels.

January 1997: The NWO's Confidential Dream Roster. Centerfold: Rey Misterio Jr. Plus: Marc Mero, Lord Steven Regal, Shawn Michaels, PG-13.

February 1997: Mr. Perfect: "Shawn Michaels Stole My Life." Centerfold: "Psycho" Sid. Plus: Kroffat & Furnas, Vince McMahon, Randy Savage, New Razor & New Diesel.

April 1997: How Winning The Title Saved Psycho Sid's Sanity. Centerfold: Hulk Hogan. Plus: Rocky Maivia, Jeff Jarrett, Unofficial/Officials, Chris Jericho.

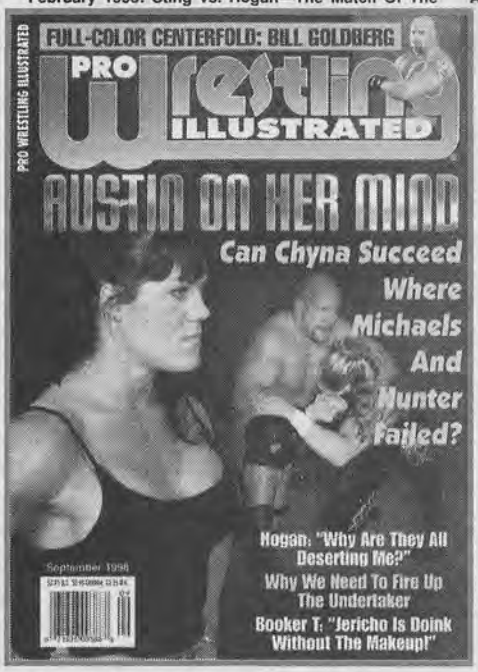
May 1997: March Madness. Centerfold: Benoit & Woman. Plus: Akira Hokuto, Roddy Piper, Goldust, Giant.

July 1997: Steve Austin: Stone-Cold And Uncensored. Centerfold: Dallas Page. Plus: Rocky Maivia, Road Warriors, Nick Patrick, Eliminators.

December 1997: Ken Shamrock's Deadly Climb To The Top. Centerfold: Savage & Elizabeth. Plus: Perry Saturn, WWF light heavys, NWO & Bischoff, Eddy Guerrero.

January 1998: Bagwell, Wright, & Jericho—The *Real* New World Order. Centerfold: Dude Love. Plus: The Giant, Shane Douglas, Shawn Michaels, Ahmed Johnson.

February 1998: Sting vs. Hogan—The Match Of The Century! Centerfold: Hogan vs. Sting fight poster. Plus: 16-page Starrcade preview, Perry Saturn, Dude Love.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October 1998: Bret Screws Bret, Part II. Centerfold: Hunter Hearst Helmsley. Plus: Jim Ross, Marcus Bagwell, WWF controversy, FBI.

Holiday 1998 (Special Issue): *PWI* 500. Eighth Annual Special.

January 1999: No Evil! Can Today's Fans Accept The Warrior's Creed? Centerfold: Chyna. Plus: Sting, Bill Goldberg, Summerslam.

February 1999: The 50 Most Beautiful People In Wrestling! Centerfold: The Nitro Girls.

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off the top rope

by Brandi Mankiewicz

If you wish to contribute to Brandi's mailbag, send your letters to:

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Or send e-mail to:
OffTheTopRope @yahoo.com

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Brandi Mankiewicz herself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

THE CORPORATION simply cannot and will not be stopped. Vince McMahon had already amassed an impressive group of brain and brawn. Then along came Mr. Paul Wight.

Mr. McMahon had a strong army, but he's always looking for ways to make that strong army stronger. So he went out, planted some beans, climbed a beanstalk, and brought down a 7'4" behemoth. Not only did he get a powerful wrestler, he picked up a fine official, too—an official who has already shown he can handle a certain bald, foul-mouthed superstar.

This giant insurance policy ensures that the Corporation will rule for as long as Mr. McMahon wants it to rule. Wight already helped "The Rock" win back ***his*** *WWF World title. It is likely that we have seen the last of the belt "ping-ponging" between Maivia and freak boy Mankind.*

While they dominate wrestling, I dominate the world of wrestling journalism. Or should I say, my kingdom? For with or without a giant to watch my back, I am your champion.

Dear Brandi:

Here are the top 10 things I hate: 10. Getting headaches from the crowd. 9. Vince McMahon acting like a loser. 8. Vincent of the NWO. 7. Eric Bischoff in WCW/NWO Revenge. 6. Shawn Michaels. 5. Scott Steiner. 4. The networks not showing wrestling on TV a lot. 3. My new *PWI* getting damaged. 2. Val Venis. 1. The NWO, period.

JEFF M. COVE
Jessup, MD

Jeff:

You either need a CATscan or a better mail carrier. Or have you thought about a hobby? If you can conjure up 10 things that you hate about wrestling, I am not sure why you even watch it. You show disdain for real people and their video game images. May I suggest a good *Star Trek* rerun? That is, if you do not already have all the episodes on tape.

Brandi:

What is your problem with wrestlers like Sting, Austin, and so on? Are you jealous of them because they are more popular than you? You seem to rip these guys and guys like them apart every chance you get, and it needs to stop—and now. Give it a break and get off their backs. Get a life, would you!

ELISE KUTSCH
steinerfan@hotmail.com

Elise:

My job is to stay on the backs of spineless wonders like Austin and Sting. I'm not the least bit jealous of any of them, because my fan base adores me for who I am. I do not tell them what they want to hear. I tell them the truth. I do not pander to their every whim the way Austin and Sting do. They have changed their colors (both literally and figuratively) because they seek to become more

Val Venis is on one reader's list of things or people in wrestling that he doesn't particularly care for. Wait until Val reads his letter. He'll be devastated!

People say I pick on men like Sting too much. Is that so? If he'd finally decide which color makeup he likes best (I see he went for the black and white in this match with Bret Hart), maybe I'd lay off him.

popular. My requirements for a quality wrestler is simple. They must have character and conviction. Austin, Sting, and readers like you lack those qualities.

All hail Queen Brandi!

All of you uneducated morons should recognize greatness when you are faced with it, and Queen Brandi is the epitome of greatness! She is the only reason I read *PWI*, and she is the only one on the staff who tells it as it is! So all pay homage to "The Queen," as she is well-deserving of all the praise and glory that is so rightly due her. It's been *your* pleasure!

RICK NIESKENS
widowmaker119@yahoo.com

Rick:

I can't think of the last time a fan not only used the word "epitome," but used it properly and spelled it right, too. It warms my black heart to get letters like this, as it gives me hope that not all fans lack direction in their lives. Obviously this letter was written by a man who wants to see his name published in this magazine and immortalized alongside mine for eternity. I guess it worked.

Dear Queen:

I agree with a lot of your opinions, but I want to know a few things from you. Do you get sick of Ric Flair always stealing moves or antics from other wrestlers (stealing the Corporate elbow from The Rock and bouncing off the ropes like Steve Austin) as bad as I do?

JOSH MASON
irishmason@hotmail.com

Josh:

Deep breath. Easy now, Josh. First of all, wrestling was not invented in 1997. I realize that in your feeble mind, you probably think that nothing ever happened before *you* saw wrestling. Just like the ECW fans who think barbed wire and chair shots were invented by the hardcore mutants who occupy the promotion. While I have loathed watching many of Flair's recent antics, he is still an innovator who deserves respect, or at least acknowledgment.

Dear Brandi:

Do any WCW commentators have a life outside of WCW?

JONATHAN THOMPSON
Jthom10361@aol.com

Jonathan:

Mike Tenay watches wrestling tapes. Larry Zbyszko stands in front of a mirror while constantly shutting his eyes tight and wishing it were 1980 again. Bobby Heenan goes through Jerry Lawler's joke book. And Tony Schiavone secretly dresses in WWF garb and takes cheap shots at himself.

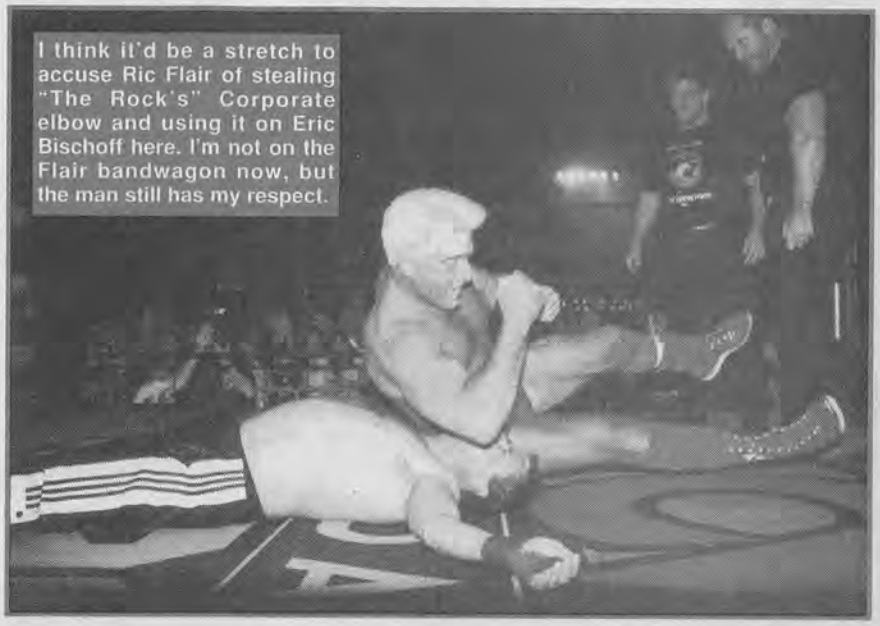
Dear Brandi:

Who do you think the most underrated wrestler in the world is? Well, I think Mick Foley is definitely the most underrated wrestler in the world, He is without a doubt the most hardcore wrestler around today. He gets thrown off a cage 16 feet in the air and comes crashing down through a table, he gets hit in the head by a chair about 100 times a week, and he just keeps on getting pounded and pounded over and over again.

JOEL GILMORE
GilKill4@home.com

Joel:

Masochism is not to be admired. Mankind's ability to fall, crash, and take chair shots only shows that his wrestling life may be short, and his brain functions could deteriorate long before his hair turns gray. The more he injures himself, the more you idiots cheer him on. Imagine the funeral. They wouldn't lower the casket—they'd drop it on a bed of thumbtacks. And the fans would go crazy and keep chanting, "Foley! Foley! Foley!" □



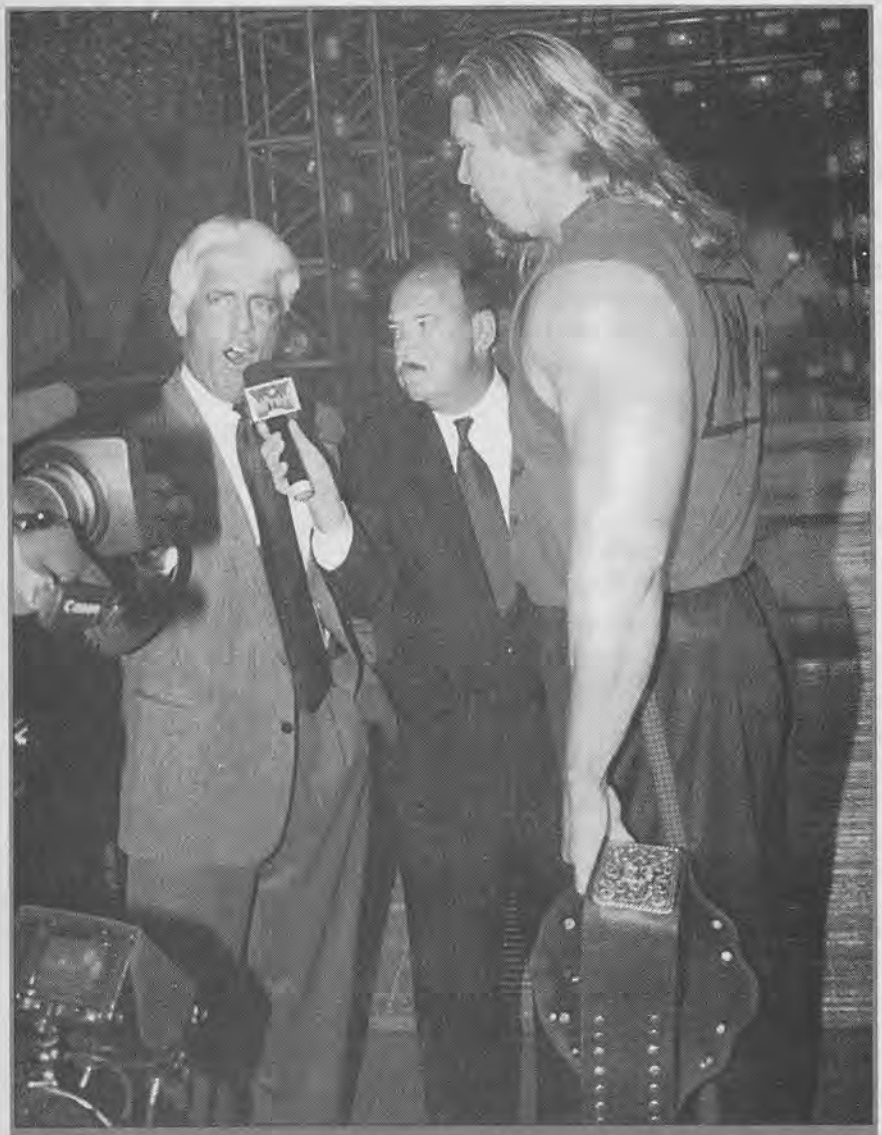
I think it'd be a stretch to accuse Ric Flair of stealing "The Rock's" Corporate elbow and using it on Eric Bischoff here. I'm not on the Flair bandwagon now, but the man still has my respect.

KREW-CUTS

By Frank Krewda

Impeachment hearings. I must admit that I often have difficulty maintaining objectivity when writing about **Ric Flair**. When it comes to Flair, I'm a fan first and a reporter second. But even I was disappointed with his term as WCW president. Flair squandered a perfect opportunity to do some good for WCW and instead just tried to humiliate **Eric Bischoff**, **Hollywood Hogan**, and the NWO.

Sure, Flair did some cool things, like giving jobs back to referee **Randy Anderson** and Executive Committee Chairman **J.J. Dillon**. And forcing Bischoff to sell popcorn was a real ribtickler. But what did Flair accomplish for the long term? Nothing.



Ric Flair grants-then WCW World champ Kevin Nash permission to wrestle Hollywood Hogan. Flair didn't know about the ruse that was to take place, but Frank Krewda didn't like the way Flair handled this situation, or a few others, during his 90-day term as WCW president.

Then-WCW World champion **Kevin Nash** gave Flair an opportunity to make a difference when he laid down for Hogan on January 4—Flair's first night in office. As WCW president, Flair could have invalidated the outcome of that bogus match and declared the title vacant. Instead, he allowed Hogan to keep the title, then gave himself a shot at the belt at SuperBrawl IX.

A tournament for the vacant title would have given **Bill Goldberg**, the legitimate number-one contender, a chance to get his belt back. Win or lose, justice would have been served. But somewhere in the midst of this travesty, Flair saw an opportunity to win his 14th world title, and he knew he'd have a much easier time beating a fortysomething Hogan than a thirtysomething Goldberg for the belt.

Flair also had a chance to rid WCW of Bischoff for 90 days. Had Flair chosen to, he could have suspended the president for three months. Instead, Flair kept Bischoff around for grins and giggles, and had him perform humiliating menial jobs. It was hilarious stuff, but now that Bischoff has resumed leadership and Flair has returned to WCW's rank and file, I'll bet the "Nature Boy" wishes he didn't have so much fun at the boss' expense.

Make no mistake, Flair might have had WCW's best interests at heart when he challenged Bischoff to that fateful match, but behind those entertaining interviews and all the talk about tradition stands the man whom Ric Flair has always put before any other: Ric Flair.

Good press. When ECW says it is not like the other two, boy does it mean it. Just look at the mainstream media blitz professional wrestling has endured over the past few months. **"Stone-Cold" Steve Austin** was featured in a *Rolling Stone* article. Bill Goldberg was in *People*. And *TV Guide* put out a series of magazines

last summer that featured Austin, Goldberg, Hogan, and **The Undertaker** on the cover.

How did ECW keep pace? With a four-page feature on **Rob Van Dam** in *High Times* magazine, of course.

For those not familiar with *High Times,* it is a New York-based monthly publication that celebrates the largely underground (and largely illegal) marijuana culture, of which Van Dam is apparently an enthusiast.

If ECW is looking to pull the plug on wrestling's most prolific boom period, having its most talented star openly embrace the drug culture is certainly the right way to do it.

For any professional athlete or entertainer to promote participation in an illegal and potentially dangerous activity is irresponsible and threatening to the wrestling business. It's no secret that wrestling fans like sex and violence. But I have to believe that the percentage of wrestling fans who endorse the use of illegal drugs is much, much smaller.

So much of ECW's underground approach is really cool, but fostering an appreciation for the pot underground is not. Let's hope ECW fans practice a little intolerance and a lot of common sense when it comes to accepting this nonsense.

You're ahhh ... whatshisname. If I were **Bret Hart**, I'd try to forget about Canadian fatman **Will Sasso** for a while and turn my attention toward ring announcer **Michael Buffer**, who issued the ultimate announcing insult on February 8, when he introduced the reigning U.S. champ to the crowd in Buffalo as Bret "The Hitman" Clark.

Coming from Buffer, a man who makes his living by introducing matches, a mistake like this is unforgivable. Not only is Hart a 23-year veteran, but he and Buffer have been working for the same company for more than a year now.

That Buffer had only two wrestlers to introduce that night makes this error even more insufferable. The least he could have done was remember their names. It *is* his job. Hell, even if Buffer drew a blank, all he had to do was *look* at Hart, whose name is emblazoned in bright pink letters all over his wrestling gear.

Trashman. As we all know, it has become a tradition of sorts for wrestling fans to shower the ring with garbage at the end of every *Raw* or *Nitro* card. Those of you who watched the WWF's *Raw Saturday Night* on February 13 might have noticed an excessive amount of debris raining down on Steve Austin and **Vince McMahon** during the show's main event.

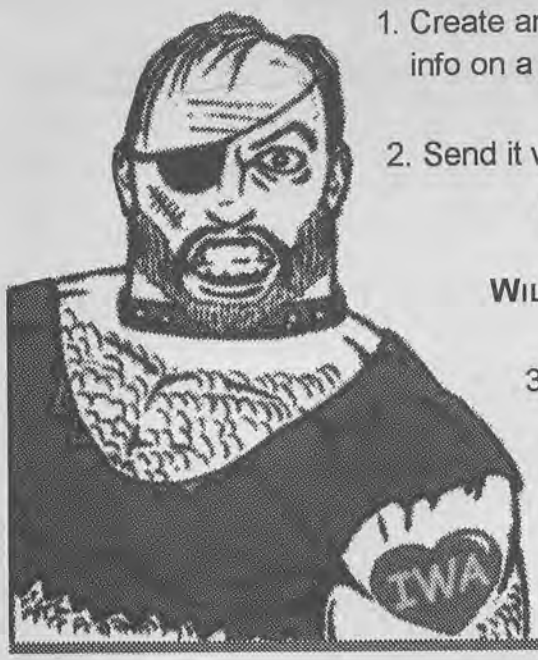
At first I thought the fans were just expressing their frustration at the Corporation's persistent interference, but when I heard a faint "You screwed Bret!" chant develop and noticed that the referee for this match was none other than **Earl Hebner**, I realized that the fans at Toronto's SkyDome weren't merely going along with some sophomoric ritual.

After nearly 18 months and more than a half-dozen World title changes, they still haven't forgiven Hebner for prematurely stopping Hart's title match against **Shawn Michaels** at Survivor Series in Montreal, even though he was acting on orders from McMahon.

Tough crowd, those Canadians.

Buzz cuts. Speaking of Hebner, what ever happened to his boycott of **Ken Shamrock's** matches? Less than two hours after Hebner swore off calling any more of Shamrock's matches, he was doing exactly that while Shamrock battled Austin in the Corporation "Gauntlet" match. A real man of principle, that Hebner ... The USA Network can't be too pleased with **Chuck Norris**, who breached the Monday night ratings war code of conduct by climbing into a WCW ring on the January 28 *Nitro* from Dallas, Texas. As any wrestling fan who owns a remote control will tell you, Norris stars in *Walker: Texas Ranger,* which airs right before *Raw Is War* on Monday night. In fact, the closing credits of *Walker* often share the screen with previews of the upcoming *Raw* ... Can somebody in WCW please explain what the deal was with the tag team tournament? If you're going to run a confusing double-elimination tournament, at least show us the brackets ... Did anybody else get a kick out of **Scott Hall** courtseying in **Roddy Piper's** kilt besides me? □

These are high times for Rob Van Dam, and not just because he holds ECW's tag team and TV titles. Krewda feels that ECW was remiss in allowing Van Dam to be featured in *High Times*—a magazine that glorifies the use of marijuana.



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8. Derek Craven

9. El Diablo Sanchez

10. Tygar Singh

WEAR-DOWN		SET-UP
1. Airplane spin	31. Foreign object	61. Abdominal stretch
2. Armbar	32. Full nelson	62. Atomic drop
3. Armdrag	33. Giant swing	63. Avalanche
4. Armlock	34. Grapevine	64. Backbreaker
5. Arm stretch	35. Hair pulling	65. Backroll press
6. Arm whip	36. Hammerlock	66. Belly to belly
7. Asian spike	37. Head lock	67. Big splash
8. Bear hug	38. Head stomp	68. Boston crab
9. Biting	39. Heart punch	69. Brain buster
10. Body slam	40. Hip roll	70. Bulldog
11. Body tackle	41. Irish whip	71. Camel clutch
12. Chicken wing	42. Knee drop	72. Cobra clutch
13. Choke	43. Leglock	73. Cradle
14. Claw	44. Manager interference	74. Crucifix
15. Clothesline	45. Monkey flip	75. DDT
16. Cross body block	46. Overhead toss	76. Figure four
17. Double axehandle	47. Pole ram	77. Flying leg drop
18. Drop kick	48. Reverse chinlock	78. Gourd buster
19. Eagle split	49. Rolling scissors	79. Indian death lock
20. Elbow smash	50. Rope burn	80. Neckbreaker
21. Eye gouge	51. Savate kick	81. Piledriver
22. Face rake	52. Scissors grip	82. Power bomb
23. Fireman's carry ram	53. Shoulder breaker	83. Power slam
24. Flying body press	54. Slingshot	84. Russian sickle
25. Flying clothesline	55. Snap mare	85. Sleeper
26. Flying drop kick	56. Step-over toe hold	86. Slingshot suplex
27. Flying elbow drop	57. Suplex	87. Small package
28. Flying head butt	58. Surfboard	88. Spine buster
29. Flying mare	59. Turnbuckle smash	89. Sunset flip
30. Forearm smash	60. Wristlock	90. Superplex

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WRESTLER'S NAME (DO NOT USE ANY REAL PRO WRESTLER NAMES)

Wear-Down Holds: Choose 10 of the holds at the left numbered 1-60. Only use a hold once.

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

6_____ 7_____ 8_____ 9_____ 10_____

Set-Up Holds: Choose 5 of the holds at the left numbered 61-90. Only use a hold once.

1_____ 2_____ 3_____ 4_____ 5_____

Finishing Hold: Create your own custom final maneuver or choose a hold from our list.

Opponents: Mark the number of each man you wish to challenge (mark #8 to fight Derek Craven, etc.)

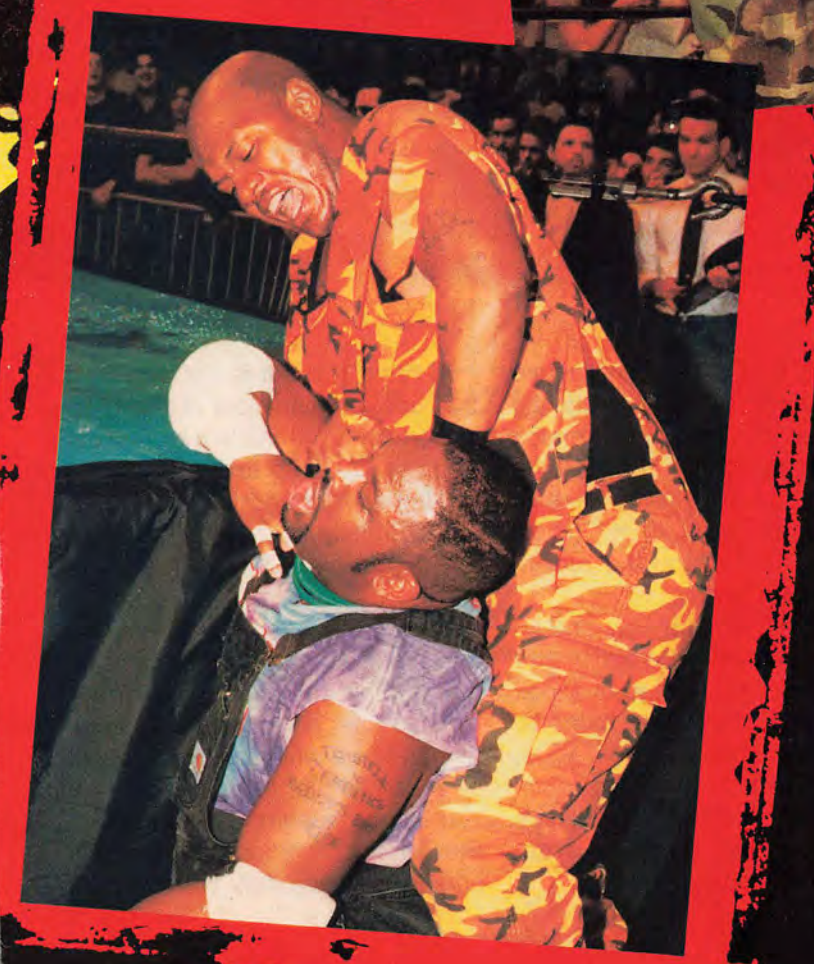
☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5 ☐6 ☐7 ☐8 ☐9 ☐10

A NEW (JACK) DUDLEY?

"We'll Take Spike Back–If New Jack Comes With Him!"

Spike (attacking Buh Buh Ray) would like to rejoin the Dudleys, says Joel Gertner, but he needs to bring New Jack (battling D-Von, bottom) with him.

Photos by Duane Long



The Dudleys' quest for respect has them making an offer to the unlikeliest recruit. Is ECW ready for ... New Jack Dudley?

By Dan Murphy

YOU'D THINK THAT after five ECW tag team title reigns, the Dudley boys would finally receive the respect they so dearly crave. While Buh Buh and D-Von Dudley are

New Jack's incredible thirst for violence would be an amazing addition to the Dudley clan. He says he'd never join them, however.

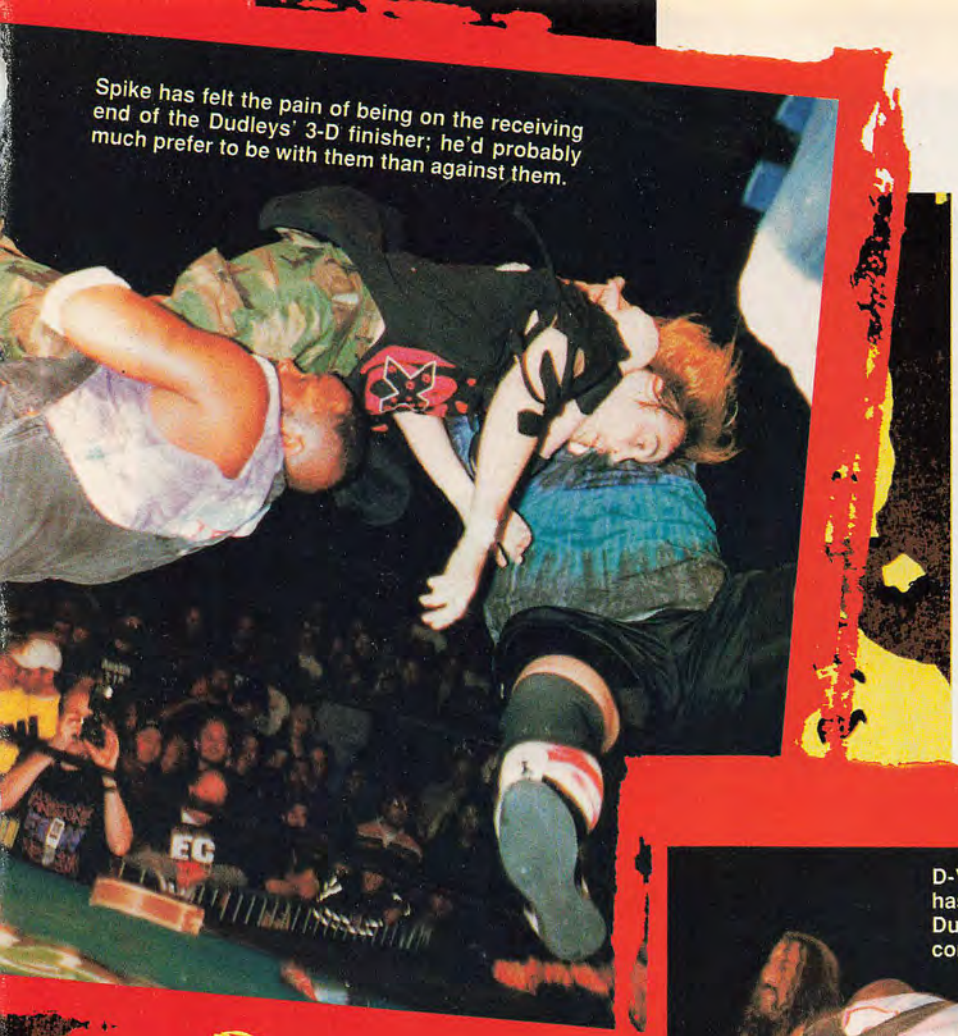
unquestionably one of wrestling's most powerful and vicious tandems, they aren't always mentioned among ECW's elite teams of the past and present. Instead, the names that tend to be mentioned are The Eliminators, The Pit Bulls, Sabu and Rob Van Dam, The Gangstas, and, of course, Public Enemy. The Dudleys are almost an afterthought.

Though the Dudleys are ECW's most decorated champions, they come with a heavy dose of baggage. Originally, the Dudley clan was a running joke. Almost every week, the world would be introduced to a new socially challenged Dudley brother. While the stuttering Buh Buh was practicing prematch and postmatch dance routines, he was hanging out with the likes of Dances With Dudley, Snot Dudley, Sign Guy Dudley, and the runt of the litter, Spike Dudley.

And while Buh Buh Ray and D-Von have improved a lot in the ring, it can still be hard to overlook the tie-dyed T-shirts, the overalls, and the ridiculous glasses. Plus, with Joel Gertner and "Big" Dick Dudley in the corner ... well, it's just hard to take the team from Dudleyville seriously.

Getting respect is the one goal that has remained out of the Dudleys' reach. And that's why Gertner and the Dudleys are considering making a major addition to their roster: They'll welcome Spike back—but only if New Jack comes with him.

"Spike has been calling me day and night, begging to get back on the Dudley bandwagon," Gertner claimed after a recent ECW event. "It took him a while to figure out, but he's learned that there's only so far you can go hanging out with a guy like Tommy Dreamer. Well, brothers sometimes have their tiffs, but Buh



Spike has felt the pain of being on the receiving end of the Dudleys' 3-D finisher; he'd probably much prefer to be with them than against them.

challenge. That stubborn belief in himself has earned him respect from everyone in ECW. By being accepted by New Jack, the Dudleys would automatically win a sort of street credibility, which is exactly what they're looking for.

"I suppose it would make sense for the Dudleys," ECW commentator Joey Styles mused. "The Dudleys are five-time ECW champions, but they haven't exactly been honorable champions. I mean, they won their second title when Kronus defended the Eliminators' belts singlehandedly when Saturn was injured, and they were awarded their third title when Mustafa was unable to wrestle. Now the Dudleys seem consumed with

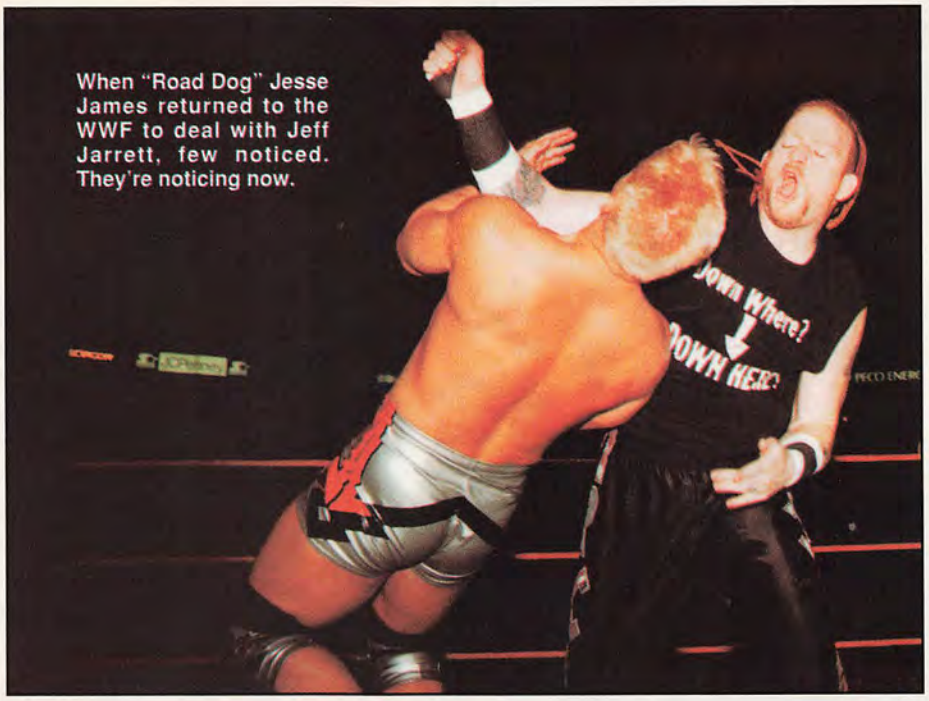
(Continued on page 56)

D-Von hammers away at New Jack, who has taken incredible punishment from the Dudleys over the last few years, yet still continues in his war with them.

Buh and D-Von are perfectly willing to try to work things out. We'll take Spike back—if New Jack comes with him! That's the deal we're offering."

Gertner has plenty of reasons to want to bring both Spike and New Jack into the Dudley fold. Spike has been incredibly intense recently, collecting win after win over opponents two and three times his size. New Jack has been trouble for the Dudleys since he and Mustafa Saed feuded with them over the tag team belts in 1996 and 1997. New Jack has put his body on the line with his death-defying leaps off balconies and his refusal to back down from

press conference...



When "Road Dog" Jesse James returned to the WWF to deal with Jeff Jarrett, few noticed. They're noticing now.

JESSE JAMES

WHEN "ROAD DOG" Jesse James returned to the WWF a few years ago, hardly anyone noticed. He wanted to clear up all the allegations regarding his ill-fated partnership with Jeff Jarrett, then set his own career course. That course was, to say the least, bumpy.

Frustrated, James formed an alliance with another struggling WWF star, Billy Gunn, who had gone from being a Smokin' Gunn to a protege of The Honky Tonk Man. Both wrestlers had trouble finding a recipe for success individually, so they decided to quietly pool their talents and form a team. There were no banner headlines when The New Age Outlaws were born, but they created a stir when they upset The Legion of Doom for the WWF World tag team championship.

The New Age Outlaws would go on to dominate the WWF tag team scene for most of 1998. An alliance with DeGeneration X only increased their already-growing popularity. The new year would find the two splitting into singles as both men set their sights on individual accomplishments.

James struck gold first when he captured the WWF Hardcore championship from Big Bossman. Not only did he showcase his skills as a singles wrestler, but he also displayed the violent edge necessary to defend a title of that nature. His success in holding on to the tattered strap was unsurpassed in the short history of the championship. In fact, he was never beaten for the title, but was stripped of it after he was unable to defend the belt due to an attack from Vince McMahon's Corporation.

Editor-in-Chief Dave Lenker, Senior Editor Bill Apter, and Senior Writer Steve Anderson sat down with James at a hotel near WWF headquarters in Stamford, Connecticut. The "Road Dog" discussed his past year of glory and the uncertainty of moving in a new career direction.

DAVE LENKER: Well, "Road Dog," it's been quite a year ...

JESSE JAMES: Now come on, Lenker. Is that any way to start an interview with a great wrestler, not to mention one of the great ring announcers of our time?

LENKER: How do you mean?

JAMES: Well, I guess if I want this done right, I'll have to do it myself. *(Standing)* Ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls, readers far and wide, DeGeneration X and PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED proudly present the greatest interview in the world: "Road Dog" Jesse James!

> **"My track record as a tag team champion and now a singles champion proves that I'm more than just a beautiful voice."**

BILL APTER: Very impressive, but I think Dave was trying to ask you about the past year and how things have changed since you joined up with Billy Gunn and DX.

JAMES: It's like night and day, Willie. The WWF wasn't giving me much of a chance when I first came back. They tried to make me into something I'm not. I never wanted to follow in the footsteps of someone else, and I really didn't want to be a country singer. I just wanted to be me. That's when Billy and me got together.

STEVE ANDERSON: Was your alliance with Gunn born out of necessity or desperation?

JAMES: *(Laughs)* Good question. I don't think it was absolutely necessary. I never needed Billy Gunn. The deal is we really wanted to have an impact on the WWF tag team scene, and the only way to do it was to knock off the champions, who also happened to be the biggest bullies on the block. When you beat the LOD, your phone starts to ring pretty damn loud. We suddenly became a hot property, and that's when "Triple-H" called us to join up with him.

LENKER: Why did you start doing your own ring announcing?

JAMES: Look, when you're as flamboyant as The New Age Outlaws, none of these lame ring announcers can do you justice. So I took matters into my own hands and put these quality pipes here to good use.

APTER: Do you ever wonder whether people come to see you for the announcing or for the wrestling?

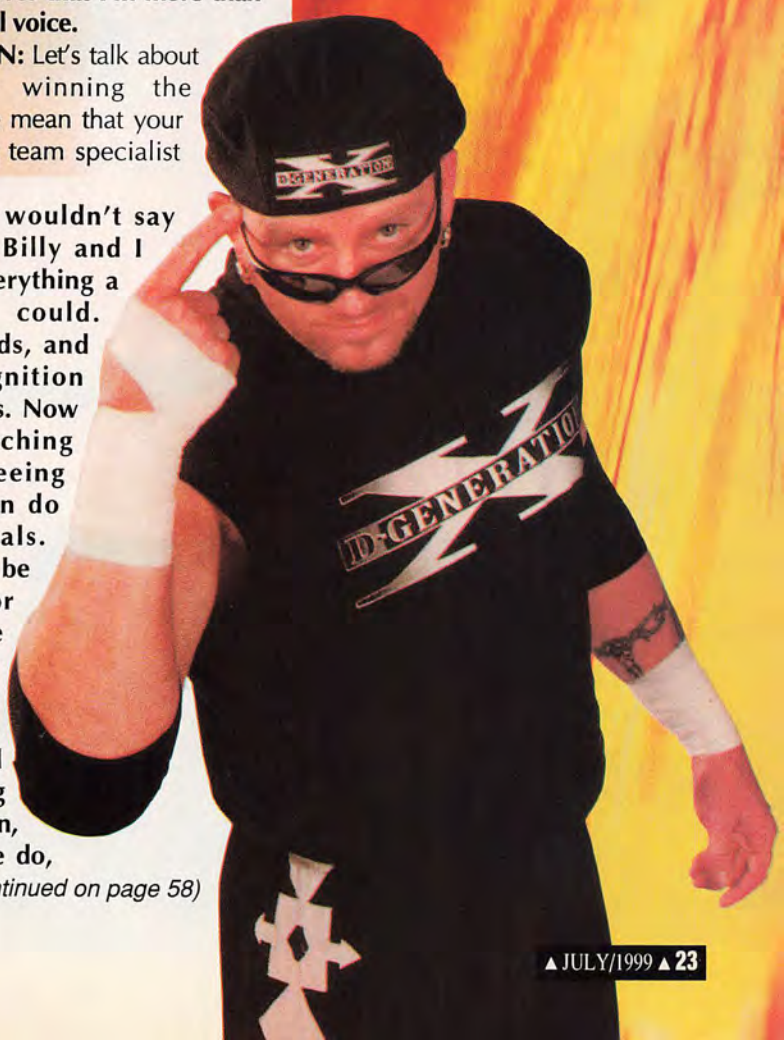
JAMES: I would hope both. After all, once I put that microphone down and get down to business, I think I can electrify a crowd as well as anybody. Plus, my track record as a tag team champion and now a singles champion proves that I'm more than just a beautiful voice.

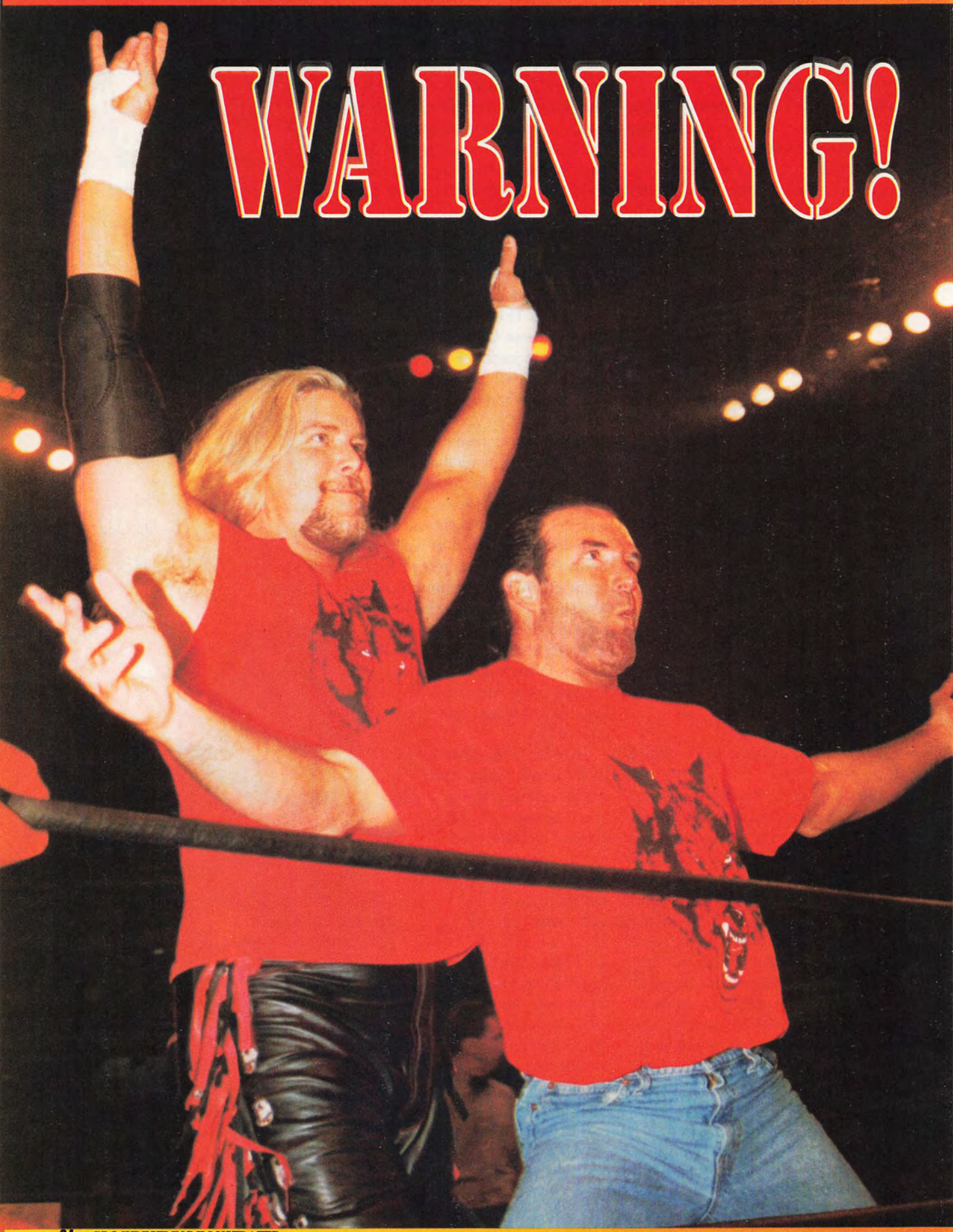
ANDERSON: Let's talk about that. Does winning the Hardcore title mean that your days as a tag team specialist are over?

JAMES: I wouldn't say that. Look, Billy and I achieved everything a tag team could. Titles, awards, and even recognition from the fans. Now we're branching out and seeing what we can do as individuals. We'll always be tight, but for now, we have other things on our agenda. I'm sure someday we'll start tagging regularly again, and when we do,

(Continued on page 58)

Every issue, reporters from PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will participate in an incisive press conference with a top wrestling star. The questions will be demanding. And the answers will reveal the innermost thoughts of the giants of the sport.




WARNING!

THIS TEAM WILL SELF-DESTRUCT IN 15 SECONDS!

The Outsiders are back together again in the NWO, but how long can this happy reunion last? Have Hall and Nash really settled their differences ... or will their differences tear the NWO apart *again?*

Scott Hall bathes in the glory of being in control over Lex Luger as his Outsider partner, Kevin Nash, looks on in this picture taken during the early days of NWO dominance. Can their fun together really last this time?

By Dave Rosenbaum

THEY HAD ALWAYS been better together. Scott Hall and Kevin Nash arrived in WCW as The Outsiders in the spring of 1996, and they proceed-

Nash bodyslams The Giant on the way to another Outsider victory. It wasn't long ago that he was slamming Hall ... and it might happen again in the very near future, too.

The Hall-Nash wars of the past (remember, their problems began in the WWF) were brutal. Don't bet against them being revived again.

ed to change wrestling. Before long, the New World Order had been formed, and although NWO came to mean Hollywood Hogan and Eric Bischoff as well, there was no questioning its roots were deepest in Nash and Hall.

They won the WCW World tag team title three times and were the front men of NWO activity. When Hall talked, people listened, and when the 7', 356-pound Nash walked, people couldn't help but take notice. The NWO dominated WCW. *Hall and Nash* dominated WCW.

Then came the split. It was completely unexpected. First, Hogan mistakenly hit Nash with a baseball bat, then he intentionally hit Nash with a baseball bat. Nash interfered on Randy Savage's behalf, but Bret Hart helped Hogan regain the WCW World heavyweight title from the "Macho Man." At Slamboree '98, Hall attacked Nash during their tag team title defense against Sting and The Giant. The Outsiders were on the outs. The battle lines were split. Hall stayed with the group that became known as NWO Hollywood, while Nash became the leader of NWO Wolfpac.

"Big Kev made the mistake of violating rule number one in the New World Order: You don't cross Hollywood," Hall said. "It's like pulling the mask off of the Lone Ranger or tugging on Superman's cape."

Hall and Nash found themselves on opposite sides for the first time in their WCW lives. Hall proved his NWO Hollywood allegiance by attacking Nash several times, but problems both in the ring and away from the ring stopped him and Nash from ever settling their feud. It looked for a while like Nash had given up on trying to help and reconcile with his friend. Then, suddenly, their feud had been settled.

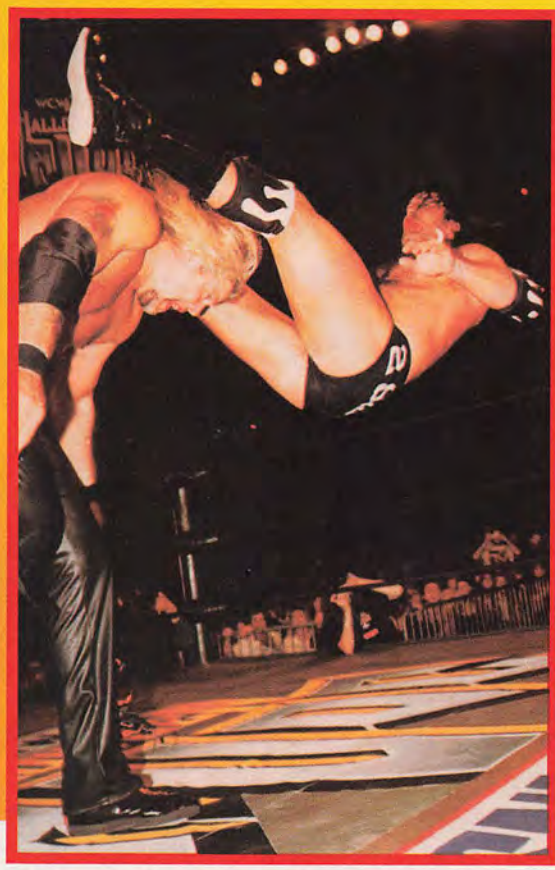
Starrcade '98: The Hall-Nash feud ended when Hall helped Nash beat Bill Goldberg for the WCW World title.

The Outsiders were back together again (although Nash briefly acted as if he were upset with Hall for interfering). The NWO had regained its core.

But now what happens?

"They have a problem," acting WCW President Ric Flair said in February. "Nash and Hall are now two people with a history. They thought they could trust each other, but now, no matter what happens, they'll always have in the back of their minds what went on for most of 1998. Nash isn't going to forget how many times Hall attacked him, and the two of them now know they don't have a blood relationship. There are things that can tear them apart. The seeds of doubt have been planted."

A cynic could successfully argue that Flair himself is planting the seeds of doubt by reminding Hall and Nash of their problems.



Hall and Nash still have unsettled differences between them. They'll admit that much. Those differences could soon lead to renewed trouble between the two.

After all, there's nothing Flair would like more than for The Outsiders to blow up and for the NWO to explode along with them. But in brief interviews *PWI* conducted with Hall and Nash recently, it became apparent they still had some unsettled issues.

Nash, while admitting he enjoyed being back with Hall, suggested "there are past problems that haven't been entirely worked out," and wondered whether Hogan and Bischoff were fully supportive of his return to the fold. Hall, on the other hand, said that there were "still a few bumps and bruises on the back of my head, and I know where they came from."

But both men were excited about moving forward with NWO business.

Nash: "Every marriage has its rocky moments. We had ours. Scottie and I decided that we're better off together than apart. Just look at what happened during all those months we were apart, and you have to agree."

Hall: "Big Kev's like a brother to me, and every time I stepped into the ring against him, I felt pain in my heart. I didn't want to do it, but I knew I had to do it. Now The Outsiders are back and better than ever. It's gonna stay that way."

Maybe so, but according to federation insiders, Nash still wonders why Hall didn't back him when he had his problems with Hogan last spring. Nash was truly bothered that Hall didn't immediately leave Hogan's NWO and join him in the Wolfpac. Nash, on the other hand, is still sour over Hall costing them the WCW World tag team title. "That's not something a partner does," Nash told another NWO member.

Clearly, Hall and Nash are not beyond the differences that tore them apart. What happens when their problems resurface? The Wolfpac has been pared down to an elite group. If Hall or Nash leave, the group could become too small. If Hall and Nash feud, and members of the group take sides, then the NWO would be torn apart once again, just like it was for most of 1998. The NWO reunion will have lasted about as long as the average high school reunion.

"Ain't gonna happen," Nash insisted.

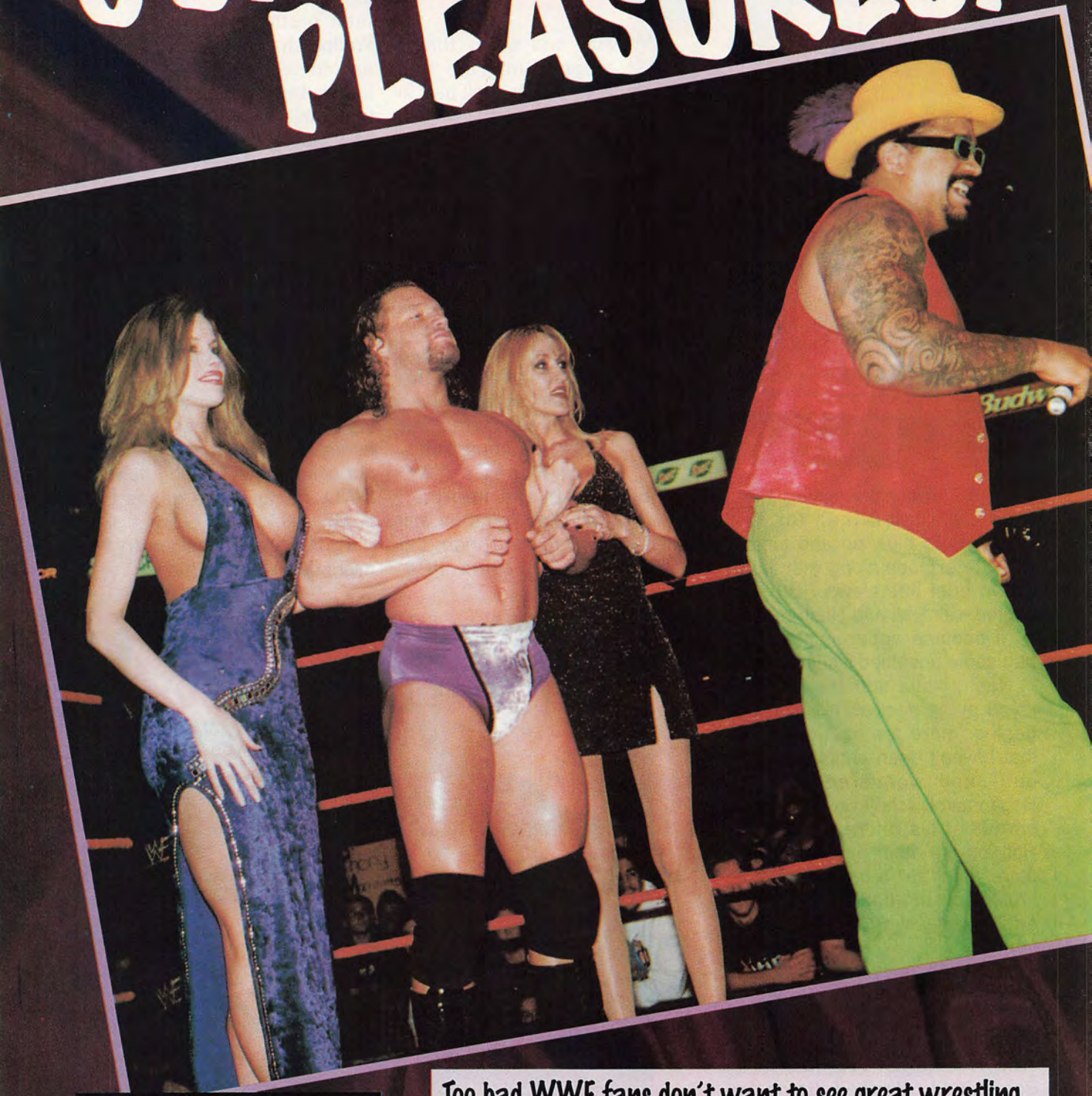
"No way. It's in the past," Hall proclaimed.

"Don't bet on a split not happening," Flair said. "They can't even agree on where to eat dinner. I'm not gonna have to bring down the NWO, because it's gonna bring down itself."

In this case, the smart bets might be on Flair. □

If Ric Flair is to be believed, an impending Nash-Hall war will once again split the NWO apart—and soon!

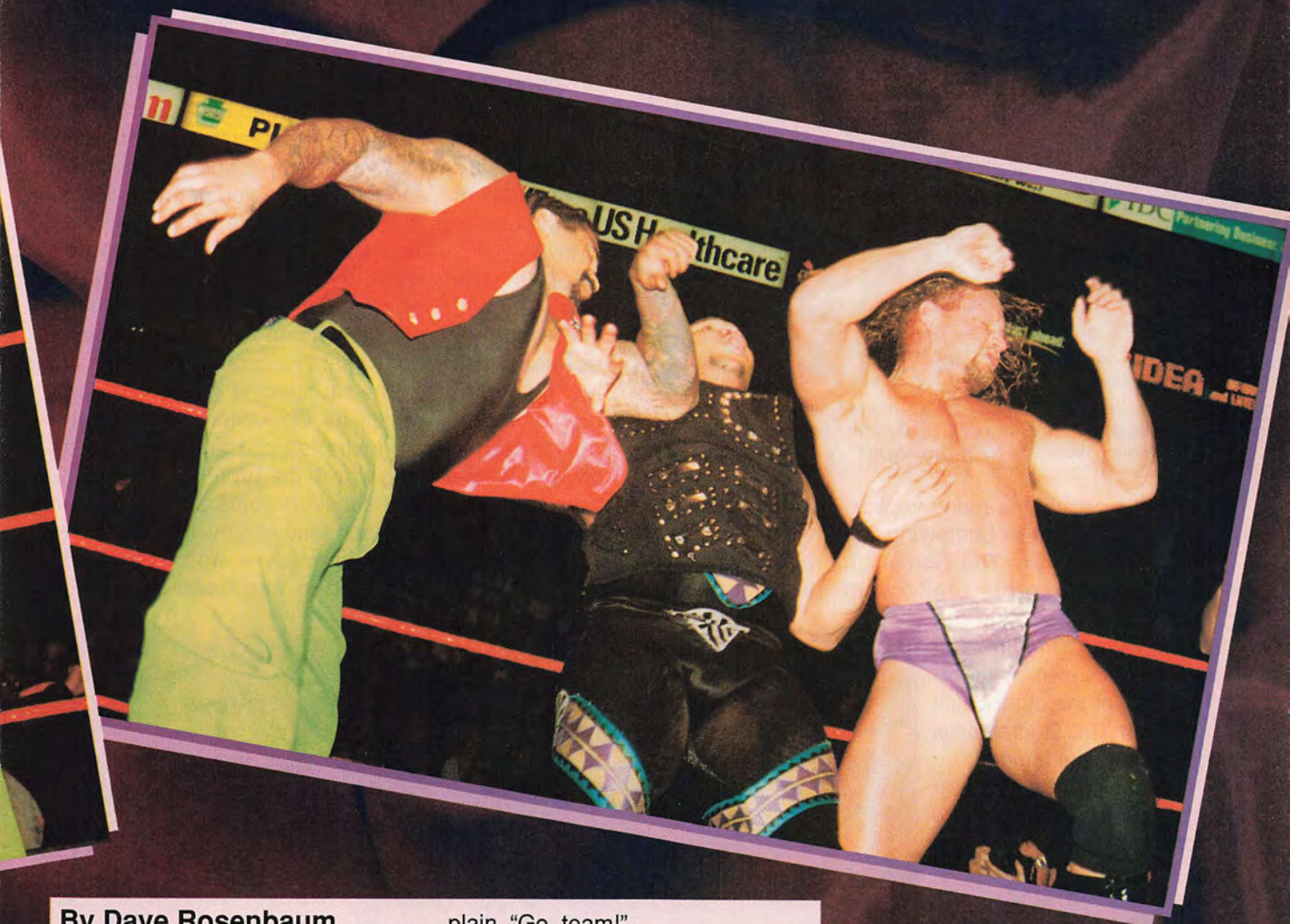
GUILTY PLEASURES!



Beautiful (and scantily clad) women and double entendres, not solid wrestling strategies and maneuvers, have made Val Venis and The Godfather stars.

Too bad WWF fans don't want to see great wrestling so much anymore. They prefer gimmicks and scantily clad women. Pimpin' ain't easy, huh? Wanna bet?

Don't Encourage Venis & The Godfather With Your Cheers!



By Dave Rosenbaum

WHAT EVER HAPPENED to the good ol' days of fan interaction at sporting events? Things like fans cheering, "Let's go, Yankees!" or "Here we go, Rangers, here we go!" What ever happened to "Charge!" or just plain, "Go, team!"

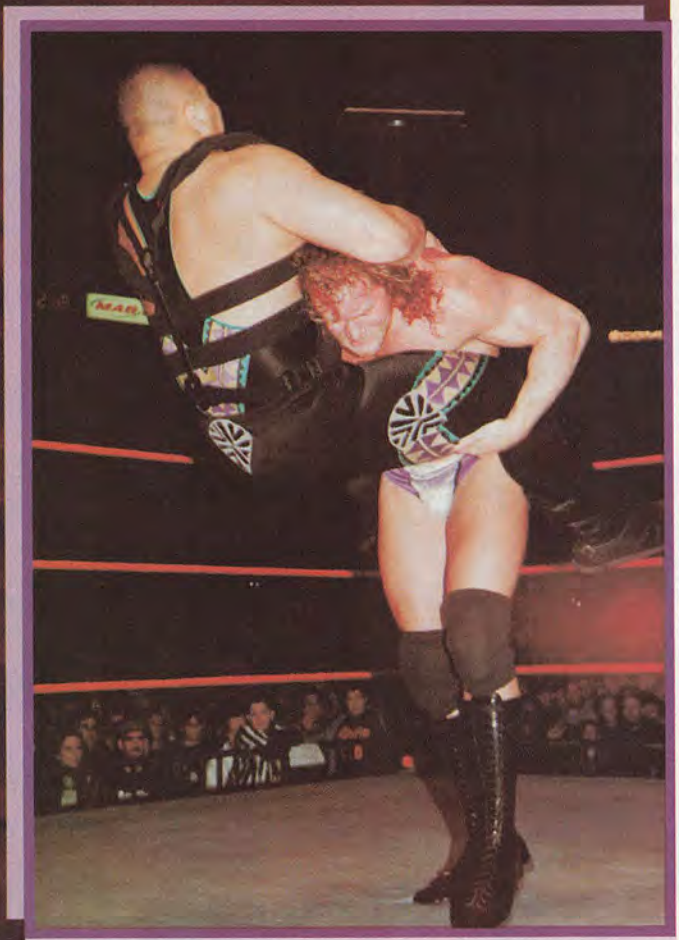
Well, children of the Jerry Springer generation, the cheers of yesterday have been replaced by the cheers of today.

In the WWF, it goes something like this:

"Pimpin' ain't easy!"

But let's forget, at least for the

D-Lo Brown gets double-teamed by Godfather and Venis, who would have to work a lot harder in the ring if fans didn't cheer their antics out of the ring.



Venis (in control against D-Lo Brown) has shown flashes of wrestling brilliance. After all, he was Intercontinental champ at press time. What's he really capable of? We may never know.

next few pages, the moral implications of teenagers bestowing the virtues of men like The Godfather, or whether parents really want their children yelling things like, "Pimpin' ain't easy." Let's also try to forget a lot of the other catch phrases The Godfather is trying to make famous.

Instead, let's concentrate on a wrestling issue for a little while.

Here goes:

The Godfather, the man who claims that "pimpin' ain't easy," and Val Venis, who is constantly referring to the "Big Valbowski," are probably very good wrestlers.

Probably.

No, check that. They *are* good wrestlers. We know that. We have seen them win tough matches on their own and as a team.

In fact, with a little bit of honest hard work, they could probably become a respected tag team. Probably even the WWF World tag team champions.

Probably.

And maybe, just maybe, their popularity could be built around something besides their infatuation with women.

Maybe.

Here's the thing: It will never happen. Because what they do when they're in the ring together now is a whole lot easier than wrestling. And why wow the fans with your wrestling ability when you can tease them with your women?

As we said, this is 1999, and in wrestling, the easiest way to get booed is to wrestle a long, outstanding scientific match using a lot of basic holds. The easiest way to get cheered is to show the fans a beautiful woman or two. The fewer clothes the better. Make a couple of racy sexual suggestions and they go wild. Guaranteed.

From a moral standpoint, this probably isn't a very good thing. From a wrestling standpoint, the fans are turning Val Venis and The Godfather into lazy wrestlers.

"You've got a point," said former NWA World champion Harley Race. "Really, why should those guys work hard to become popular through their wrestling when they've already found an effective shortcut? When you get right down to it, nobody wants to see Val and The Godfather wrestle. People want to see them with their women. It's really a shame when you think about it, because judging from what I've seen of Venis, I can tell he's a talented young wrestler, while The Godfather is a wily veteran who is good enough to go a long way in the WWF."

It shouldn't come as a shock to any long-time observer of the sport that gimmickry has replaced wrestling in the World Wrestling

The Godfather (also in control against D-Lo Brown) won't bother improving his skills in the ring if all he needs for success is two more sleazy-looking women by his side.

Venis (above) and Godfather (right) are both very capable wrestlers. The way things are now, though, it's impossible to tell how well-developed their skills really are.

Federation. Vince McMahon Jr.'s form of sports entertainment includes plenty of beautiful women, lots of double entendres, a false pregnancy, The Godfather's fleet of ladies, and oh, by the way, some quality wrestling here and there.

Venis, with his good looks and well-toned body, appeals to the women. When he gets into the ring, grabs the microphone, and says, "Hello, ladies!" it seems like every female in the building swoons. He started going out with Ryan Shamrock, igniting a nasty feud with Ryan's brother, Ken. He dumped her the day after Valentine's Day. He has also had flings with Terri Runnels and the wife of Yamaguchi-san. His double entendres sound like the kind of stuff you'd hear in an eighth-grade lunchroom.

The Godfather is even more blatant. He comes to the ring accompanied by a bevy of beautiful women. Before many of his matches, he offers his ladies to his opponent(s). Their choice: Take the women or have their butts kicked.

In the old days of wrestling, Venis and The Godfather would have been hated rulebreakers.

Today, they're among the most popular wrestlers in the WWF.

"There has always been an aspect of wrestling that emphasized gimmickry over wrestling ability," said WWF expert Thomas Pillard. "Look at Steve Austin. He became WWF World champion, but a few years ago he couldn't get a break. That was because he didn't have a gimmick. There have been so many talented wrestlers who never got anywhere because they didn't have a gimmick, and just as many untalented wrestlers who became stars because of their gimmick. It's just the way things are in wrestling, and there's really nothing anybody can do to change it."

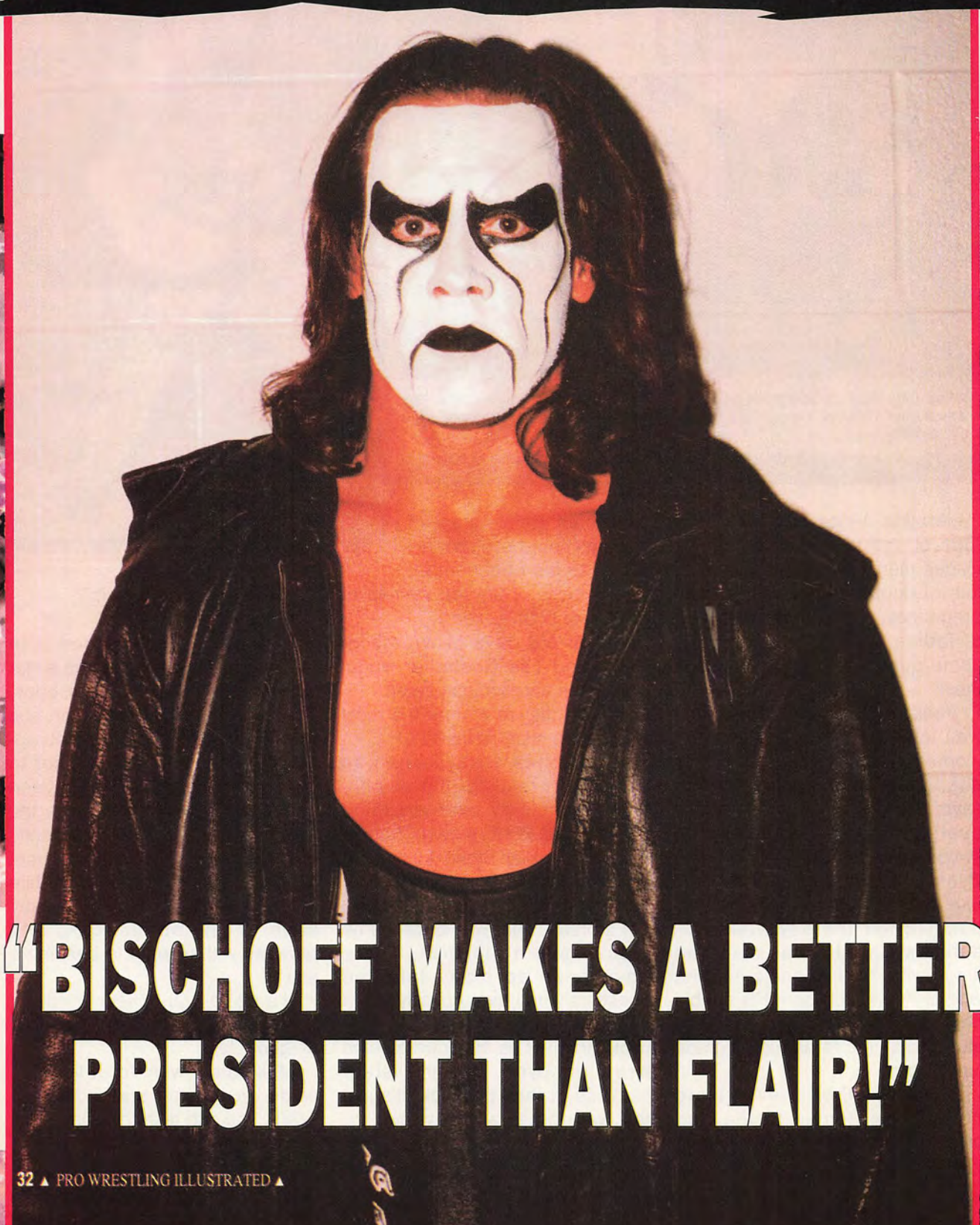
Maybe there is.

The fans have the power in wrestling. A wrestler can't be a star without the fans' cheers or boos. By cheering Venis, Godfather, and the women, the fans are encouraging Venis and The Godfather to keep on doing what they've been doing, and the WWF to shine the spotlight on them. Venis recently won the Intercontinental title from Shamrock. Doesn't that make him a fine wrestler? Does he really have to rely on his looks and prowess with women to become a star?

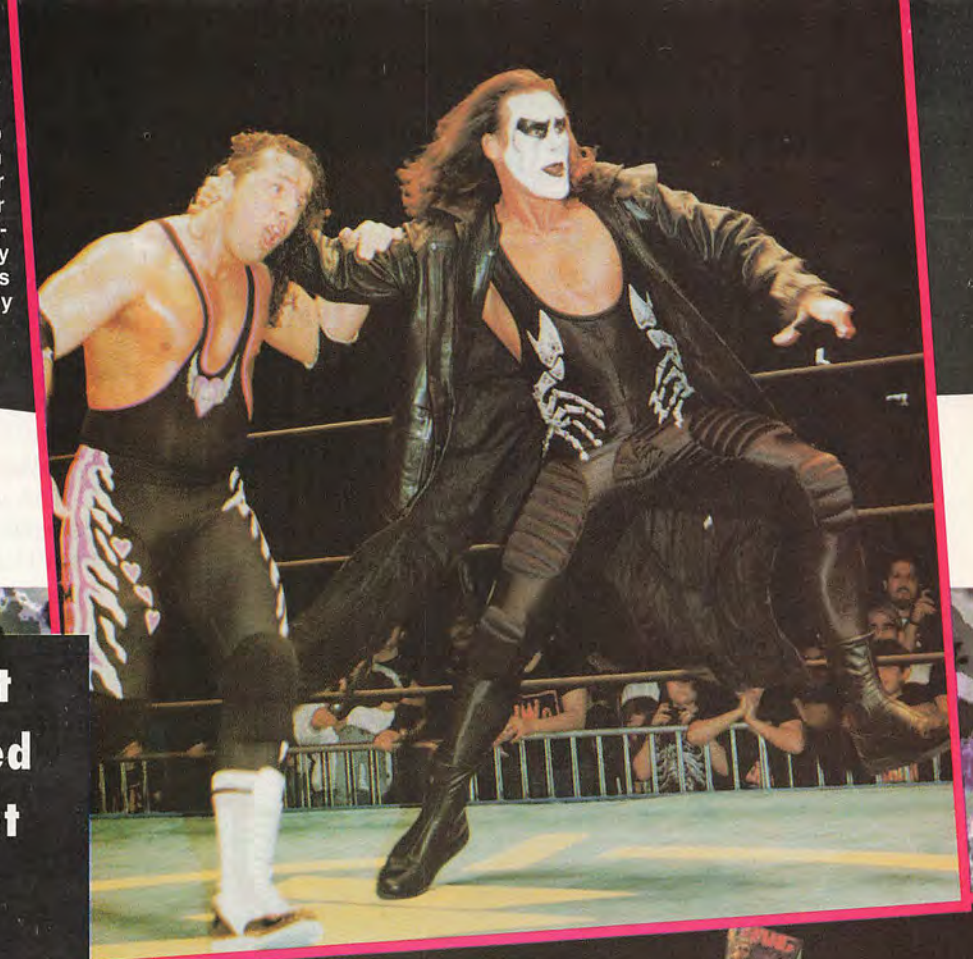
It's up to you. Cheer Venis or ignore him. Cheer The Godfather or ignore him.

Make them work for a living ... or go on proving that in today's WWF, you can take the easy route to success. □

WHY STING SAID THESE SHOCKING WORDS!

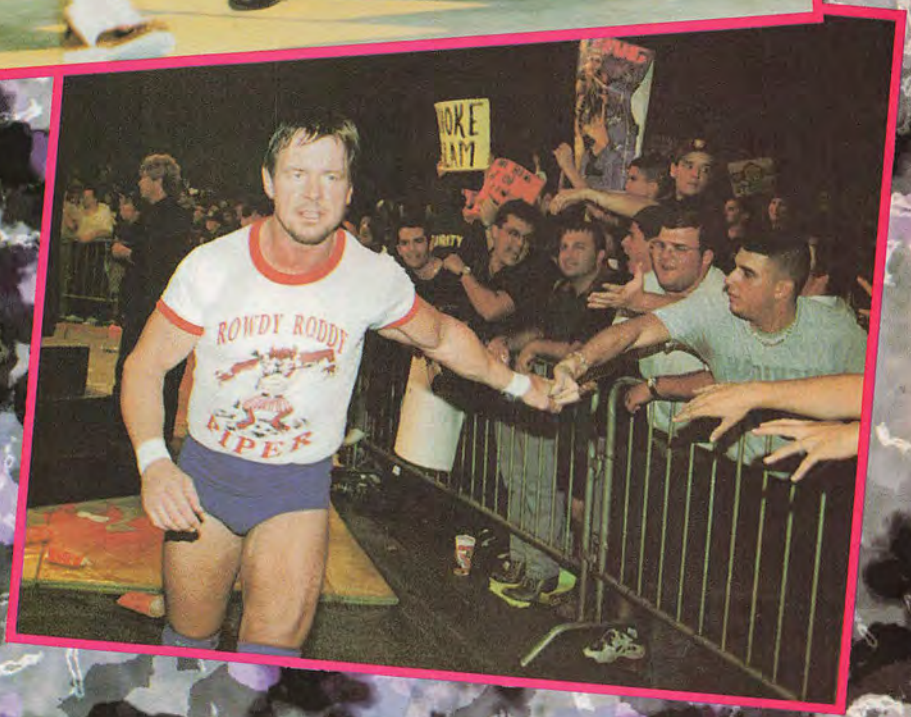


"BISCHOFF MAKES A BETTER PRESIDENT THAN FLAIR!"



Sting beat WCW U.S. champ Bret Hart in non-title match after non-title match after non-title match this winter (right), yet Roddy Piper (bottom) got a title shot simply because he's Ric Flair's friend. Sting was justifiably angry about that.

Sting thought he had earned a shot at Bret Hart's WCW U.S. title by fulfilling Ric Flair's terms and conditions. As it turned out, there was a condition he didn't know about

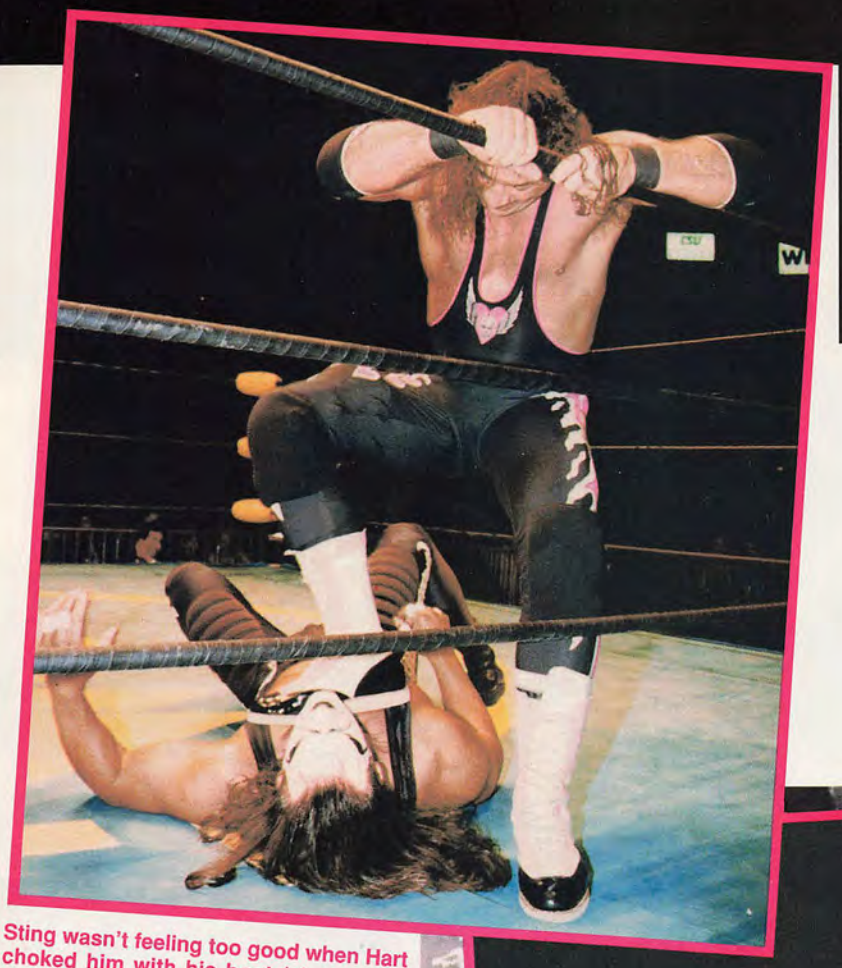


By Dave Rosenbaum

HE PUMMELED HIM in Peoria. He jostled him in Jackson. He savaged him in San Diego. And he sent him to la-la land in Los Angeles. Up and down the Eastern seaboard, then through the heart of the United States, then on the West Coast, Sting devastated WCW U.S. champion Bret Hart. Then he sat back and waited for his reward ... and never got it.

To paraphrase a famous line from the movie *Animal House,* Sting, you messed up. You trusted Ric Flair.

Over the past quarter-century, Flair has staked his reputation as one of the most conniving, dishonest con men in the sport. He thrives on being, as he puts it, "the dirtiest player in the game." His reputation as a rulebreaker is so well-established that one has to wonder why WCW ever allowed him to become federation presi-



Sting wasn't feeling too good when Hart choked him with his boot (above). His spirits must have been lifted when he saw Eric Bischoff briefly dominating Flair in a recent bout (right).

dent. Of course, people have wondered the same thing about Eric Bischoff, whom Flair displaced for 90 days.

But Sting has news for all those Flair lovers and Bischoff haters out there.

"Bischoff makes a better president than Flair!" Sting declared. "Maybe you can't trust Bischoff, but at least you always know where he stands. That's *a lot* more than I can say about Flair."

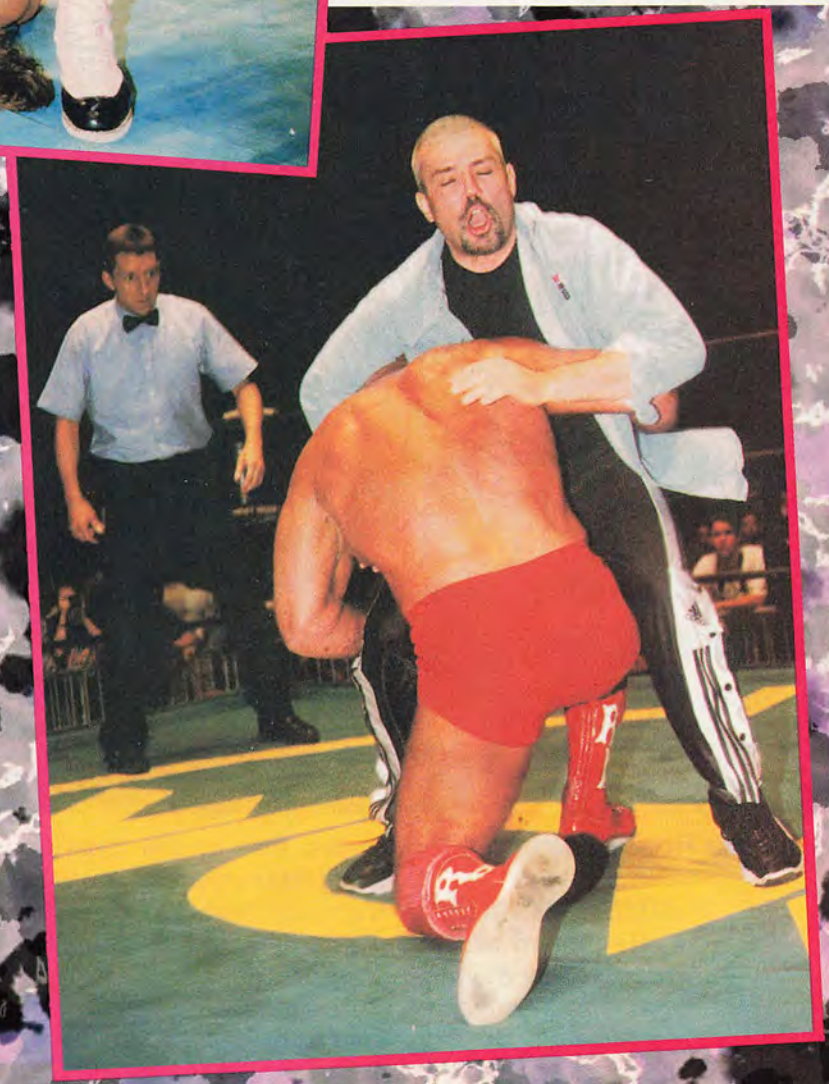
Sting's bitterness is understandable. He had been lobbying for a shot at Hart's U.S. title when Flair told him, "Listen, 'Stinger,' I know you've been waiting patiently. But you have a bunch of non-title matches against Hart coming up. You win those and look sharp and you'll get a title shot by mid-February."

Sting really didn't think he had to prove himself, but he accepted the challenge. After all, he figured, if he really deserved to hold the belt, he'd be able to beat Hart in those non-title matches. Sting hit the road. On January 22, he pinned Hart in Peoria, Illinois. On January 23, he pinned Hart in Jackson, Mississippi. On January 29, he beat Hart again in San Diego, California. The next day, he traveled 100 miles up the San Diego Freeway and beat Hart in Los Angeles.

The victories were impressive, decisive. Sting left no doubt he'd beat Hart when they met in a title match. Sting had the hit out on the "Hitman." Sting started preparing for the title bout, which he knew would be a tougher test with the stakes increased for the champion.

That's when disappointment set

(Continued on page 57)



close-up:

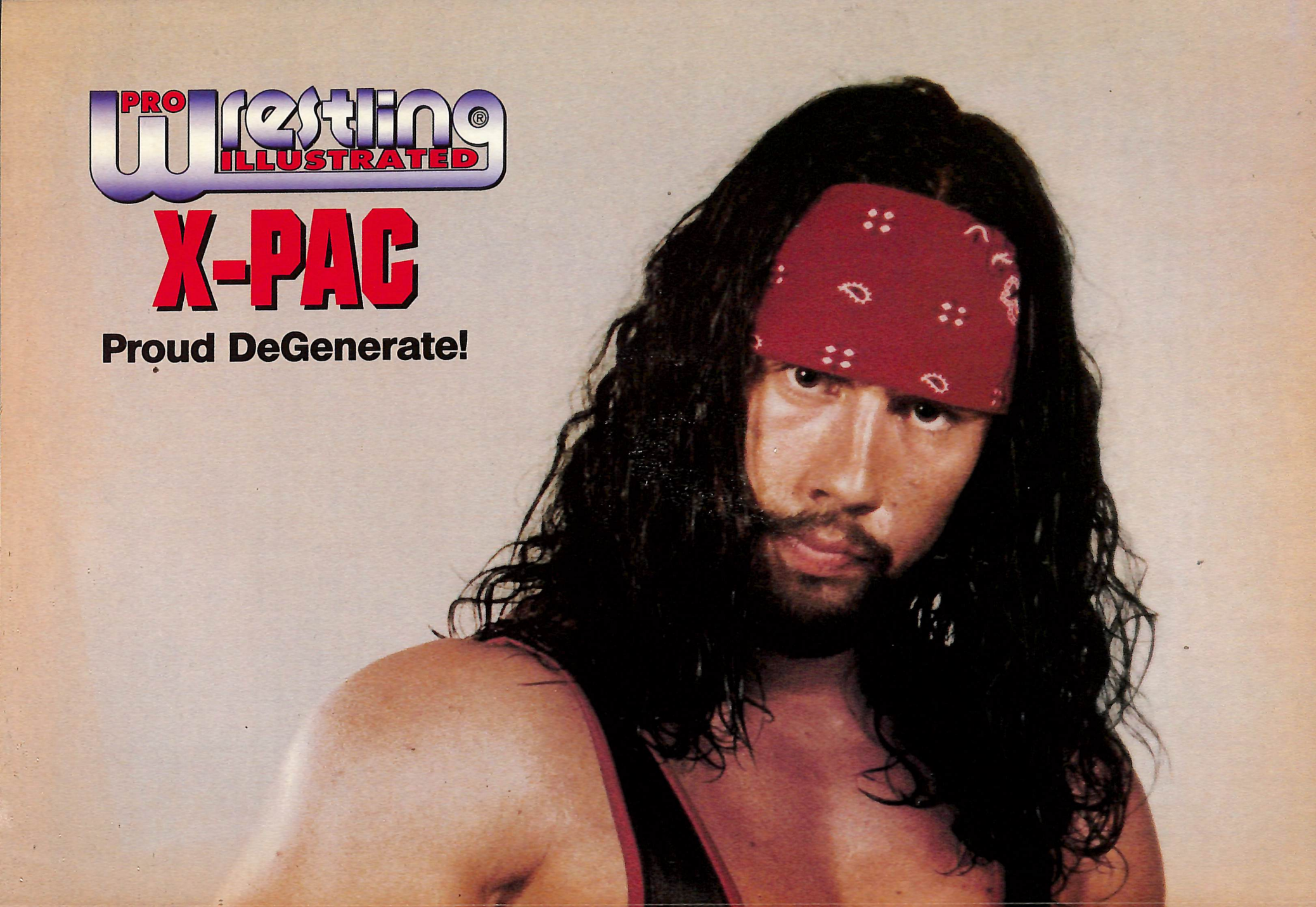
X-PAC

HE HAS BEEN known as The Lightning Kid, The 1-2-3 Kid, The Kid, Syxx, and by his real name, Sean Waltman … Now the 6'2", 212-pound dynamo goes by the name X-Pac. He is in his second go-round in the WWF and is a key member of DeGeneration X … A high-flying, high-risk aerial artist who has beaten many larger opponents … Spent most of his early years competing for Minneapolis-based Pro Wrestling America … Won the PWA light heavyweight title in 1990 and 1991 … Also held the PWA tag team title … Moved to Texas and won the Global Wrestling Federation junior heavyweight title twice in late-1991 … Wrestled in Japan against such stars as Jushin Liger, El Samurai, Ultimo Dragon, and The Great Muta (Keiji Muto) … Made a low-key arrival in the WWF in April 1993 … Lost his first WWF match to Louie Spicolli … Was piling up losses against mid-carders when he reached the turning point of his career: a pinfall victory over Razor Ramon at the May 17 *Monday Night Raw* at the Manhattan Center … It was one of the most shocking upsets of the year … Thus became known as The 1-2-3 Kid … Scored two victories over former AWA World champion Rick Martel … Lost by countout to Marty Jannetty on August 31, 1993, and was injured when he missed on a daring dive and hit the steel railing … Suffered several more losses to mid-carders … Helped protect Ramon from an attack by Irwin R. Schyster, Diesel, Adam Bomb, and Martel after Ramon won his first Intercontinental title on September 17, 1993 … The two struck up a friendship … Lost a crucial match at *Raw* against Shawn Michaels. Michaels twice power-bombed Kid before Ramon came to his rescue … Teamed with Jannetty to win the WWF World tag team title from The Quebecers on January 10, 1994 … Lost the belts to The Quebecers a week later … Lost to Owen Hart in the 1994 King of the Ring semifinals … Nearly shocked Bret Hart for the WWF World title on July 1, 1994. Hart won with his sharpshooter … Teamed with Bob Holly to beat Bam Bam Bigelow and Tatanka in the final of a tournament for the vacant WWF World tag team title at the 1995 Royal Rumble … Lost the belts to The Smokin' Gunns only one night later … Seconded Ramon for his WrestleMania XI I-C title match against Jeff Jarrett and helped clear the ring of Jarrett and The Roadie (Jesse James) after the match … In a tag team match on April 24, 1995, he aggravated a neck injury he had suffered earlier in the month … Returned to the ring and suffered a string of losses … He and Ramon again came to blows at SummerSlam '95 thanks to a case of mistaken identity on Ramon's part … Agreed to settle their differences the next night, but split again after Kid refereed the Ramon vs. Sid Vicious match on October 23, 1995 … He pulled Vicious out of Ramon's Razor's edge, then made a fast three-count on Ramon, accepted a payoff from Ted DiBiase (Sid's manager), and left the ring … Took on DiBiase as his manager and became a rule-breaker … He and Sid lost to Ramon and Jannetty at In Your House V on December 17, 1996 … Blatantly interfered in Ramon's I-C title defense against Goldust at the 1996 Royal Rumble, helping Goldust to score the pin. Kid delivered a spinning kick from the top rope while the referee was distracted … Was humiliated by Ramon in a "crybaby" match at In Your House VI on February 18, 1996. After preventing DiBiase from throwing baby powder into the ring, Ramon executed two Razor's edges and scored the pin. As the loser, Kid was forced to get diapered and drink from a giant baby bottle … Lost twice to Roddy Piper … Lost to WWF World champion Shawn Michaels … Was sidelined because of several concussions … Meanwhile, Razor Ramon (Scott Hall) and Diesel (Kevin Nash) jumped to WCW and eventually formed the New World Order … On September 16, he jumped to WCW, changed his name to Syxx, and joined the NWO … Hogan was reportedly against him joining the group, but Nash and Hall talked him into it … Beat Chris Jericho in one of his earliest WCW matches … Competed almost exclusively in the cruiserweight division … Became a mainstay in NWO run-ins … Won the WCW cruiserweight title from Dean Malenko on February 23, 1997. Unleashed an impressive aerial attack and won when he grabbed the belt and prepared to hit Malenko. Eddy Guerrero charged out and got caught in a tug o' war with Syxx. Guerrero lost his grip and Syxx went flying into Malenko. He scored the pin … Lost the title to Jericho on June 28, 1997 … Jericho hadn't been scheduled to get a title shot. He simply came to the ring before Syxx's title defense against Rey Misterio Jr. and demanded a match against whomever won. Syxx won in a hard-fought match, then immediately defended the title … Was frequently in Hall and Nash's corner for their WCW World tag team title defenses … Teamed with Konnan and lost to Ric Flair and Curt Hennig at Clash of Champions XXXV on August 21, 1997 … Syxx, Buff Bagwell, Konnan, and Nash beat Chris Benoit, Curt Hennig, Steve McMichael, and Flair in a "War Games" cage match at Fall Brawl '97 … Hurt his neck during an in-ring altercation with Lex Luger. Landed on his neck after being press-slammed and ruptured a disk between two of his vertebrae. Underwent surgery to have the disk removed … Was expected to miss four months … On March 9, 1998, while going through rehabilitation, he learned from WCW President Eric Bischoff that he had been fired … "No reason was given for letting me go," he said. "I was home, the doorbell rang, Fed Ex handed me a package … and in it was my termination" … Responded Bischoff: "During the length of time he has been with WCW, he has been down with injuries for an extraordinary part of the time" … Nash and Hall were upset over the firing … Returned to the WWF on March 30 under the name X-Pac, lashed out at Bischoff, and joined DeGeneration X … Scored several victories over D-Lo Brown … Lost to I-C champ Rocky Maivia by disqualification … Lost to European champion D-Lo Brown at the Fully Loaded pay-per-view when Kama (The Godfather) interfered … Scored several victories over Jeff Jarrett … Looked sharp in DX's feud with The Nation and was impressive teaming with Hunter Hearst Helmsley … DX bodyguard Chyna interfered in many of his victories … Won the European title from Brown on September 15, 1998 … Lost the belt to Brown two weeks later … On October 12, he lost to Ken Shamrock in a tournament final for the Intercontinental title … Regained the European title from Brown on October 18. Converted Brown's attempted frog splash into a facebuster … Beat Jarrett in several guitar-on-a-pole matches. Also beat Steven Regal, Al Snow, and Taka Michinoku … Got shots at the World title, but lost to Maivia … WWF Commissioner and former DX leader Shawn Michaels took exception to the fact that many fans saw X-Pac as his replacement and went out of his way to humiliate X-Pac on *Raw* … Humbled Owen Hart in several matches … Defended his title at the 1998 Royal Rumble by beating Gangrel. X-Pac used his bronco buster and X-factor finisher to retain the title … After Chyna defected to Vince McMahon's Corporation, X-Pac and Helmsley lost to Chyna and Kane at St. Valentine's Day Massacre … Lost the European title to Shane McMahon when Shane pinned him during a tag team match (after Chyna interfered) on February 15 … But this much is certain: X-Pac has become a vital member of DX, as well as a cruiserweight who has proven himself against the best heavyweights … Despite all of his injuries, he is one of the finest wrestlers in the world. □

PRO Wrestling® ILLUSTRATED

X-PAC

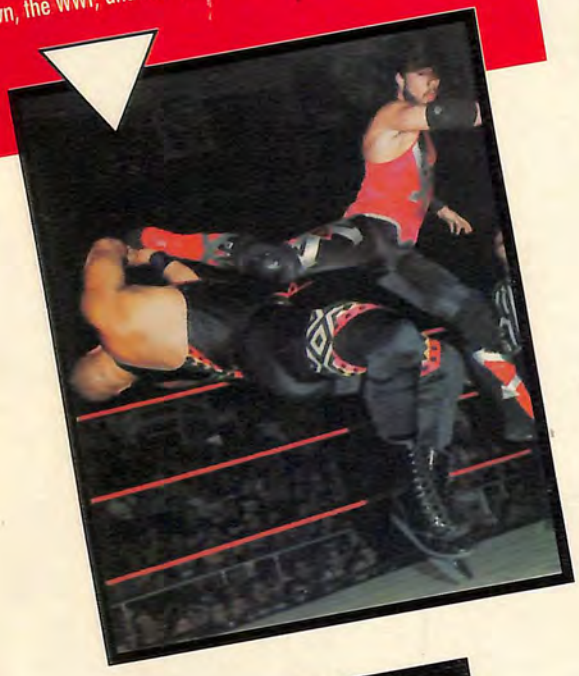
Proud DeGenerate!



PAC

GREATEST MATCH

vs. D-Lo Brown, October 18, 1998. X-Pac and D-Lo Brown had met before, when The Nation and DeGeneration X feuded last spring. They met again when X-Pac defeated Brown for the WWF European title. Eventually, Brown got the belt back, but X-Pac made a statement by beating him a second time. With this win, X-Pac told Brown, the WWF, and the world that he was a legitimate champion.



MOST HATED OPPONENT

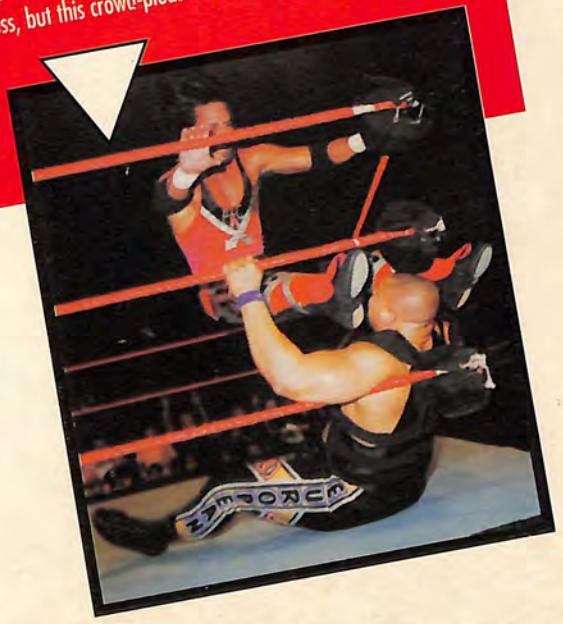
Jeff Jarrett. The X-Pac vs. Jeff Jarrett feud goes way back to their first tour of duty in the WWF, when X-Pac was known as The 1-2-3 Kid. After a brief stint in WCW, the two wrestlers resumed their feud, which climaxed in a hair vs. hair match at Summer-Slam '98. You can tell by Jarrett's peach fuzz hairdo who won that match. Just one more score for these old rivals to settle.

TOUGHEST OPPONENT

Ken Shamrock. X-Pac has the speed, talent, and attitude to hang with "The World's Most Dangerous Man," but the bigger, heavier Shamrock has a distinct edge in power. It's a disadvantage that X-Pac has yet to overcome, and many of their matches have ended with him on the wrong end of an anklelock. Still, X-Pac is no quitter, and you can bet he'll challenge Shamrock again.

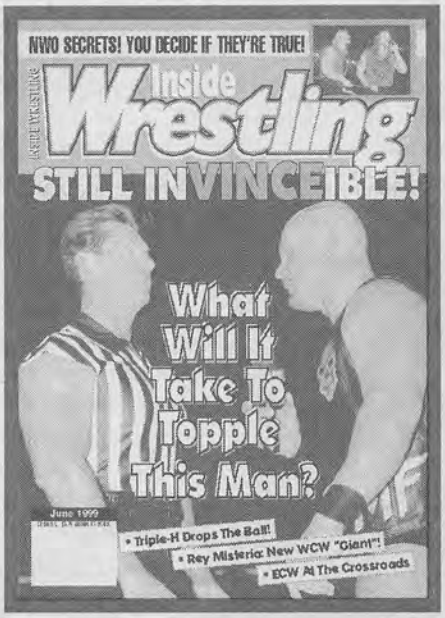
FAVORITE MANEUVER

The bronco buster. Have you ever looked at X-Pac's face while he executes a bronco buster? Absolute delight. Very few moves can disorient an opponent or incite a crowd quite like this one. It's difficult to assess the bronco buster's effectiveness, but this crowd-pleaser sure gives X-Pac momentum.



this month in...

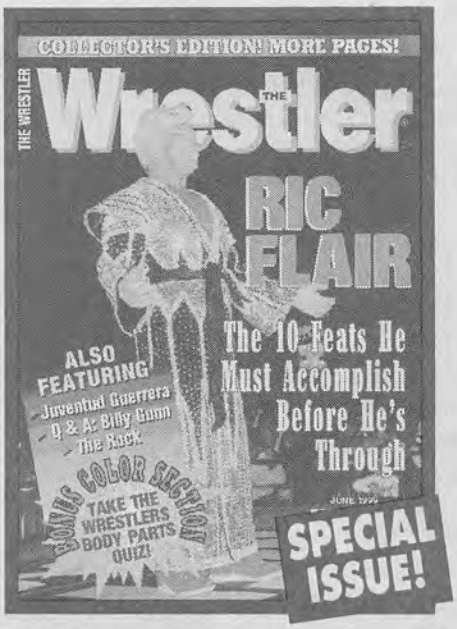
Inside Wrestling


NWO SECRETS! YOU DECIDE IF THEY'RE TRUE!
Inside Wrestling
STILL INVINCEIBLE!
What Will It Take To Topple This Man?
June 1999
• Triple-H Drops The Ball!
• Rey Misterio: New WCW "Giant"!
• ECW At The Crossroads

Will anyone ever topple **VINCE McMAHON**? The government thought it had enough on him to send him to jail in 1994. Didn't work. Eric Bischoff felt pretty smug a year ago, when WCW was trouncing the WWF in the ratings. Vince rebounded. Even **STEVE AUSTIN** can't keep him down! ... Did you know there was a new "giant" in WCW? His name is **REY MISTERIO JR.** We'll explain ... Remember when **HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY** accused **SHAWN MICHAELS** of "dropping the ball" as DX leader? Has "Triple-H" "dropped the ball" this time?

All this—and much more!—
in the June 1999 issue of
Inside Wrestling

The Wrestler



Is **RIC FLAIR** ready to retire? Hardly. He still has a lot left to accomplish. In fact, he gave us a list of 10 more things he wants to do before he's through. It won't be easy, "Nature Boy" ... **ROCKY MAIVIA** is not the kind of guy who likes to take advice from anyone. Well, we're going to offer him some anyway. It's time for "The Rock" to ditch **TEAM CORPORATE**! ... Can you identify prominent wrestlers if we show you just one part of their body? Find out by taking our "Wrestlers Body Parts Quiz"!

All this—and much more!—
in the June 1999 issue of
The Wrestler

WWF vs. WCW THE MONDAY NIGHT WAR

By Steve Anderson

Clean sweep—well, almost ... The WWF counted three more wins in the month of February. It would have been four, but you could say that the USA Network "went to the dogs" for one night. The annual Westminster Dog Show was aired in place of *Raw* on February 8. So there was a brief cease-fire between the two Monday night wrestling shows, as *Nitro* aired unopposed (unless you count a few schnauzers and poodles as its enemies).

Raw opted for a Saturday night airing instead and posted respectable numbers with a Steve Austin vs. Team Corporate main event. The unopposed *Nitro* drew what appear at first glance to be great numbers (cumulative 5.7). Actually, though, the rating had to be a bit of disappointment considering *Raw* has done better when airing opposite *Nitro*.

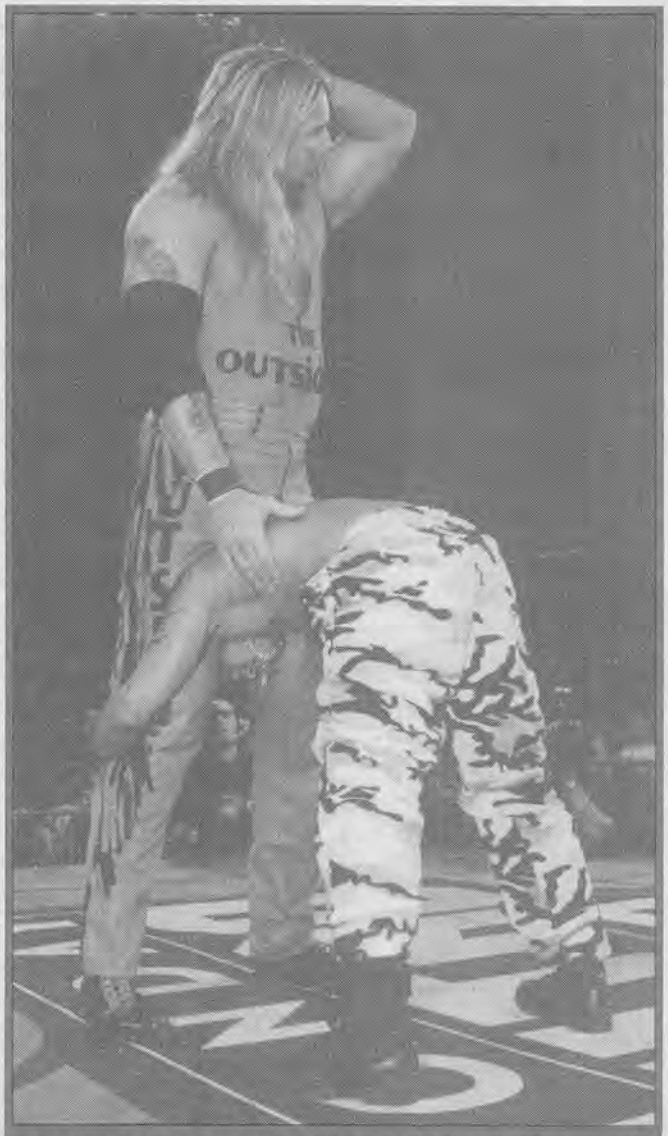
It's a content thing ... While it dominates WCW in the all-important Monday night ratings war, the WWF is coming under attack for the content of its programming. The syndicated TV program *Inside Edition* commissioned a study through Indiana University to observe 50 *Raw* broadcasts from January 12, 1998, through February 1, 1999, and analyze the show.

What came out was a scathing report that cited the WWF for too little wrestling and too much sexual innuendo. The report asserts that *Raw* features only about 36 minutes of ring action. The extracurricular activities include fans grabbing or pointing to their crotches 1,658 times, chanting a slogan that refers to a sex act 434 times, and wrestlers engaged in simulated sexual activity 128 times.

If it's not ironic enough that a tabloid show is throwing out accusations of questionable content, WCW's own Eric Bischoff has been slinging mud in the WWF's direction as well. Predictably, he concurs with the assertions of *Inside Edition*. For Bischoff to throw stones without evaluating his own glass house could be considered a bit hypocritical. After all, he oversees a show that has featured Kimberly Page being abused and tossed out of a car, occasionally foul-mouthed wrestlers who have also focused on a certain part of their anatomy, and a scantily clad blonde in a hotel room with whipped cream and other accouterments. Mr. Pot, meet Mr. Kettle.

The idea that professional wrestling may not be a product for young children has some merit. However, when you consider that the sport in any form features men and women who use fists instead of words to solve problems, where is that all-important line between what is appropriate and what is not?

In addition, for Bischoff to criticize his competitor comes off less like sin-



Nitro didn't beat *Raw* in the ratings on February 22, but it did post good ratings for the segment in which Kevin Nash battled Rey Misterio Jr.

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

FEBRUARY 1

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.3	5.9	5.7	5.4	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.7	6.0	5.9
Nitro	4.6	5.6	6.0	5.9	4.3	3.7	4.3	4.8	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.7 (4.25*)

*Head-to-head composite

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: Nitro **continues to post impressive numbers in the unopposed hour, but it can't seem to stem the tide once *Raw* comes on the air. The world champions drew well for both shows, as segments with Mankind (6.0 in 9Q) and Hollywood Hogan (4.8 in 8Q) posted the best numbers for the evening during the head-to-head portion of the shows. But the overruns told a different story, with a 2.1 point ratings gap. Viewers preferred Hunter Hearst Helmsley's confrontation with Chyna over the Scott Hall-Chris Benoit match.**

(Note: Each ratings point represents roughly 750,000 households; 1Q, 2Q, etc. refer to ratings for each quarter-hour segment of the shows; OR is the rating for the overrun portion of the show.)

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

FEBRUARY 8

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3.8	—	—	—	4.8	—	4.3**
Nitro	4.8	5.3	5.4	5.4	6.2	5.7	6.1	5.9	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.6	6.4	5.7

**Quarter-hour breakdowns were not available for *Raw*, which aired on Saturday, February 13 this week.

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: **Nitro goes unopposed with a cumulative 5.7, off hours of 5.2, 6.0, and 5.9. Its competitor for the night, The Westminster Dog Show, posted a cumulative 3.5. For the first time, *Nitro's* head-to-head rating was better with a 5.9. The taped *Raw* that aired the following Saturday did a 4.3 rating off hours of 3.8 and 4.8.**

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

FEBRUARY 15

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.9	6.4	6.0	6.1	5.1	6.1	5.8	5.9	6.8	5.9
Nitro	4.2	4.6	5.0	5.0	3.9	3.1	3.0	3.4	5.0	5.8	3.3	3.0	4.5	3.9 (3.6*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: **Putting it simply, this week was not pretty. In what many called the worst *Nitro* in history, WCW's flagship program was beaten by 2.3 points in the head-to-head portion of the shows. This had to be especially troubling to WCW officials considering *Nitro* ran unopposed the previous week. At one point, *Nitro* trailed *Raw* by an astounding three points as viewers preferred to see Val Venis vs. Billy Gunn (6.0 in 7Q) to a replay of Kimberly being tossed from a car (3.0). Kimberly was not the only one saying "Ouch!" It's hard to believe that the segment that featured *Mad TV's* Will Sasso wrestling Bret Hart posted a rating that was nearly a half-point higher.**

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

FEBRUARY 22

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.4	5.3	6.1	5.6	5.6	5.2	5.5	5.5	6.5	5.5
Nitro	4.7	4.0	5.3	5.4	4.3	4.4	4.3	4.6	4.9	4.8	4.9	4.5	3.8	4.7 (4.6*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: Nitro **closed the gap just a bit, but it still trailed in every quarter hour against a taped *Raw*. Goldberg vs. Scott Steiner and Rey Misterio vs. Kevin Nash posted the highest head-to-head ratings with 4.9 ratings in both 9Q and 11Q. *Raw's* high point was its overrun (6.5), which featured the last part of Kane and The Undertaker's second "inferno" match and a confrontation between Undertaker and Vince McMahon.**

cere concern and more like righteous indignation from a man who is constantly coming up short in the ratings.

Bottom line? As far as the WWF is concerned, all that matters is that its shows are appealing to a lot of people. Viewers are tuning in in record numbers to see it. Do the ends justify the means? Why don't we ask that question to both promotions when they are through counting all their money?

That '70s rating ... The WWF's coattails recently carried a certain Fox sitcom to its highest rating ever. "The Rock" (portraying his father, Rocky Johnson) and Ken Shamrock (portraying himself—with an Afro) made guest appearances on *That '70s Show* in February. Go figure. With the two WWF superstars on board, the show posted an 8.5 rating.

Bret Hart gets "Mad" ... Bret Hart's first appearance on *Mad TV* was reminiscent of Andy Kaufman's appearance years back on *Fridays*. Like Kaufman, Bret lost his cool during a sketch. He then introduced cast member Will Sasso to a chair and the sharpshooter. Sasso tried to exact revenge a few weeks later by entering Bret's venue, *Nitro,* for a match. Sasso was reunited with both the furniture and Bret's finisher. Funny thing was, the Hart-Sasso match didn't appeal to all that many viewers. □

the steel cage

By Dave Rosenbaum

HE'S HERE! The Giant has arrived in the WWF, and it's no surprise whose side he's on. Anybody who has been paying attention to the WWF over the past year knows that whatever Vinnie wants, Vinnie gets (with the exception of "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin), and when Paul Wight set his sights on the WWF, McMahon set his sights on Wight.

Of course, it's a distinct advantage for McMahon that he owns the federation. Anybody who comes and goes in the WWF has to pass McMahon's desk at some point, and although Vinnie Mac has people to handle the messy stuff like contract negotiations and contract signings, at some point he has to put his signature on the bottom line. "Stone-Cold" might say so, but when it comes to money in the WWF, McMahon controls the bottom line.

In all likelihood, the sequence of events went something like this:

McMahon to cronies: "The Giant's available. Let's get him."

Cronies to McMahon: "He wants to come. Here's what he wants."

McMahon to cronies: "Make sure he meets with me before you sign that contract."

Paul Wight to McMahon: "Hello, Mr. McMahon."

McMahon to Wight: "Hello, big guy. I hear you've agreed to a contract. Here's how much more I'll give you if you join the Corporation and help me with my battle against Steve Austin."

Wight to McMahon: "Sign me up."

Or something like that.

Wight made his WWF entrance in grand fashion by cutting through the bottom of the ring and attacking Austin during the McMahon vs. "Stone-Cold" match at the St. Valentine's Day Massacre pay-per-view. But McMahon quickly found out that the bigger they come, the harder they fall, because when Wight whipped Austin into the cage, part of the cage fell apart. Austin fell to the floor, and the referee declared him the winner.

And here's the bottom line: So far, McMahon's losing on this deal in the short run.

If you ask me, he'll end up losing

Paul Wight thought he was helping Vince McMahon when he threw Steve Austin through the cage at St. Valentine's Day Massacre, but he *cost* McMahon the match. Dave Rosenbaum thinks this blunder could be the first of many to come from Wight.

in the long run, too.

Wight is a very imposing wrestler. About 7'4", 500 pounds. Big guy. Menacing snarl. Stand beside him and one of your first thoughts would be, *I don't want to wrestle this guy*. He won the WCW World title as a rookie in 1996 and was the first and only person to win *PWI's* Rookie of the Year and Wrestler of the Year honors in the same year.

Since then, not much. A WCW World tag team title handed to him on a silver platter when The Outsiders broke up. Failed World title runs. Not even a U.S. title to his credit. The Giant is starting to resemble Andre the Giant with a one world title head start.

Hmmmmmm, did somebody say ... El Gigante?

Remember that guy? He was about 10 feet tall, weighed about as much as a truck, and everybody was sure he'd be wrestling's next superstar.

Instead, these days the only thing we're saying about El Gigante (a.k.a. Giant Gonzales) is, "Where is he now?"

In all honesty, I don't know where he is. Maybe Bill Apter knows. To tell you the truth, I don't care.

The fact is that wrestling is a sport that can be, but rarely is, dominated by big men.

El Gigante. Sid Vicious. Andre the Giant. Yes, the legendary Andre the Giant retired from wrestling with a sparkling record, but only one world title. And that one he handed right over to Ted DiBiase without ever fitting it around his huge waist.

I think Wight won the WCW World title so quickly because he had people intimidated and nobody had figured out how to beat him. But he failed to diversify, got lost in the NWO shuffle, and sunk in the *"PWI* 500 (from number two in 1996 to number eight in 1997 to number 31 in 1998. Does that sound like the proper career progression for a man who won Rookie of the Year in 1996?).

So he opted for the change of scenery, which usually works its magic for a while. Paul Wight will benefit from being around a lot of people who don't know him and are intimidated by him. He'll win more than his share of matches. But his stay in the WWF got off to a very bad start. After all, McMahon was hoping he'd help him win that match at the St. Valentine's Day Massacre and deny Austin his shot at the World title at WrestleMania XV, not destroy the ring and help him lose it.

Here's Wight as The Giant in 1996. Wight beat Ric Flair for the WCW World title in his rookie year, but Rosenbaum thinks his quick start was a bit of a fluke. He doesn't expect Wight to win the WWF World title.

Will Wight win the WWF World title?

Nope. I don't think so. Not unless a lot of people in the WWF have forgotten how to wrestle. I can't imagine a scenario in which Austin is the slightest bit intimidated by Wight, and I certainly can't imagine him getting outwrestled by Wight. As for Mankind, there's no way he's going to get outbrawled by someone like Wight.

I'm not saying McMahon's plan backfired. I am saying the man has made better investments in his life. Heck, maybe I'm way off on this one. Maybe I've underestimated Wight. More likely, McMahon has overestimated Wight. Hey, maybe McMahon had been busy reading copies of *PWI Weekly* from 1996 when he decided to sign him. I don't know. I really don't know what passes through McMahon's mind these days. I do know, however, that Wight is just passing through. □

win lose or draw

By Harry Burkett

THE FOUR HORSEMEN don't seem to be running on all hooves these days. The leader of the Horsemen, Ric Flair, is the most popular wrestler in WCW right now and is grabbing the big pay-per-view matches as of late. That's good for Flair, but where does it leave Chris Benoit, Steve McMichael, and Dean Malenko?

In the dust, that's where. What's good for Flair isn't necessarily good for the rest of the Horsemen. For each World title shot he receives, that might be one less chance for the rest. For every pay-per-view slot Flair occupies, it's less likely that Benoit, McMichael, or Malenko will ever get their big break.

Let's face it: Benoit, McMichael, and Malenko are not the main-event players that previous Horsemen have been. A decade ago, no major NWA card went by without all four Horsemen involved in title matches—sometimes as challengers, usually as champions.

Take 1988's Great American Bash, for example. World tag team champions Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard wrestled to a 20-minute draw against Nikita Koloff and Sting. U.S. champion Barry Windham pinned Dusty Rhodes. World champion Ric Flair defeated Lex Luger.

Contrast that with Starrcade '98. Flair was relegated to wrestling in a sideshow attraction against WCW President Eric Bischoff. Benoit, McMichael, and Malenko were nowhere to be found. Who made the cut? Guys like Norman Smiley, Prince Iaukea, Dave Finlay, and Jerry Flynn!

Why aren't the Horsemen as relevant anymore? Most of the blame lies with the founding members, Flair and Anderson. The Horsemen's primary mission remains the same as it was back in the 1980s: Do whatever possible to glorify Ric Flair. Years ago, they did that by ensuring the World title belt remained around his waist at all times.

But Anderson, Blanchard, and Windham were different from Benoit, McMichael, and Malenko. They were greedy.

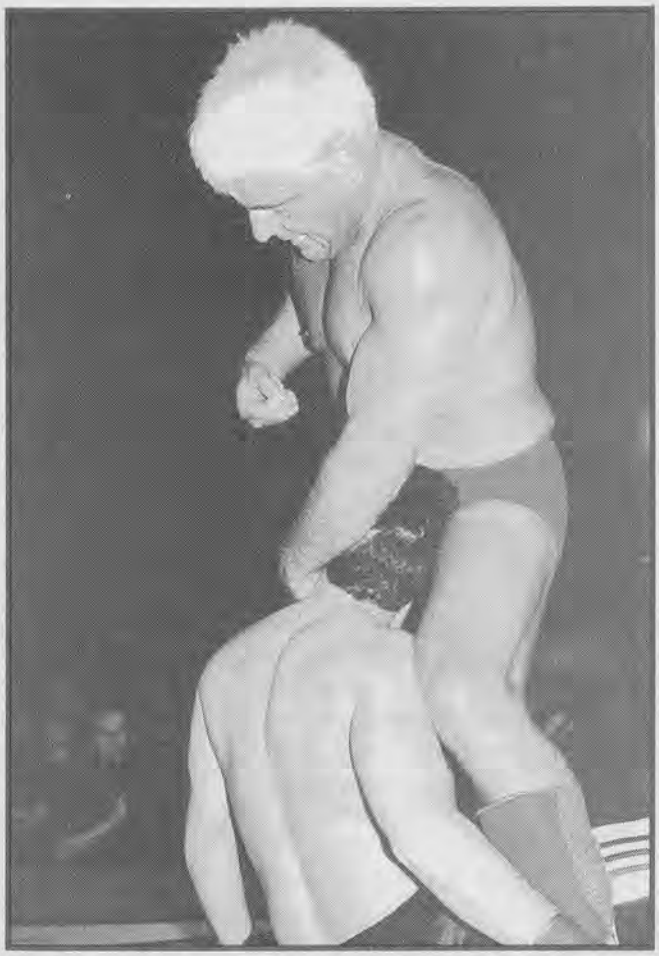
Manager J.J. Dillon's ground rules were simple. Only one man, Flair, was going to be World champ. But the rest of the Horsemen, by one way or another, would have their share of fame, too. That meant a U.S. title for Windham and tag straps for Anderson and Blanchard. Arn and Tully had their share of singles titles as well.

In the 1990s, the Horsemen's creed has changed from greed to self-sacrifice. Flair and Anderson, either by intentional deception or delusional retrospect, have convinced Benoit, McMichael, and Malenko that being a Horseman is an honor or achievement in itself.

Ask Barry Windham. Flair invited him back to WCW hoping to gain assistance in his feud against Bischoff. Of course, Windham asked himself the age-old question: "What's in it for me?" That's what a true Horseman would always ask himself. As it turned out, attacking Flair was more beneficial to Windham than helping him.

Windham didn't change. The Horsemen have changed.

To be successful, they must change again. They



Ric Flair pounds away on Eric Bischoff. Even though Flair has climbed back into World title contention and remains wildly popular, Harry Burkett feels he should step out of the spotlight and let Chris Benoit lead the Horsemen.

don't have to become the conniving backstabbers they were in the '80s. No one wants that. However, they do need to change their priorities.

Flair must step down as leader of the Horsemen. He shouldn't leave the group completely, but he should anoint a successor to his legacy.

Chris Benoit should be that man. Will McMichael and Malenko be miffed? Sure. But current manager Arn Anderson should follow Dillon's old strategy. Unite behind one man, but appease the others with titles, money, and high-profile matches.

Why Benoit? He has earned it. Benoit has logged more time as a Horseman than McMichael and Malenko combined. Besides being the youngest of the three, he has 13 years of experience.

Anderson should gather the Horsemen around him and stand in the middle of the ring on *Monday Nitro.* He should announce that Benoit is their choice to defeat WCW World champion Hollywood Hogan and declare that the Horsemen will not stop until that mission is accomplished.

Flair has enough political clout to get Benoit a title shot. Then Flair—along with McMichael and Malenko—can use "necessary roughness" to make Benoit the champ.

That is the real Horsemen way, whether they want to admit or not. □

With the "Nature Boy" garnering the high-profile matches, Benoit and Steve McMichael are relegated to mid-card matches. By remaining subservient to Flair, Benoit, McMichael, and Dean Malenko (not pictured) are not really carrying on the Horsemen tradition.

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arena reports

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UNITED STATES

ARIZONA

TUCSON—Dragon's Den Wrestling at We Went Wong's: **Section 8** beat **Super Serial Killer** ... **Chris Robitaille** beat **Kid Payaso** ... **T** beat **Nite Train** ... **Fat Abbott** wrestled to a double-disqualification with **Dumptruck Dawson** ... **Bill Bowan** beat **Mr. Bill** ... **Dumptruck Dawson** beat **Ed Knight** ... **Tiger Smith Jr.** beat **Ranger** ... **Section 8** (with his father, **Ron Sutherland**) beat **Black Mamba** (who was unmasked as **Paulie Stevens**) in a dog-collar weapons match ... **The Navajo Kid** defeated **The Blue Machine**.
(02-02-99)

—Anthony Taylor

ARKANSAS

FORT SMITH—WLW at the River City Events Center: **Matt Taylor** pinned **Johnny Jett** ... **Rude Dog** beat **Steve Frost** ... **James Grizzle** defeated **Dexter Hardaway** ... **Jeff Jett** beat light heavyweight champion **Treach Phillips Jr.** in a non-title match ... **Drill Instructor** & **Johnny Jett** beat **Bill Ash** & **Matt Taylor** ... NWA champion **Dan Severn** beat **Tim Storm**.
(01-16-99)

—Matt Duffield

CALIFORNIA

LOS ANGELES—WCW at the Great Western Forum: **Chavo Guerrero Jr.** defeated **Kaz Hayashi** ... **Norman Smiley**, **Hector Garza**, & **Super Calo** defeated **Psicosis**, **La Parka**, & **Silver King** ... Cruiserweight champion **Billy Kidman** defeated **Rey Misterio Jr.** and **Juventud Guerrera** in a triangle match ... **Scott Hall** & **Scott Steiner** defeated **Ciclope** & **Damian** ... **Konnan** defeated **Lex Luger** ... **Ric Flair** beat **Barry Windham** ... **Ric Flair** beat **Eric Bischoff** ... **Sting** defeated U.S. champion **Bret Hart** in a non-title match ... **Bill Goldberg** defeated **Kevin Nash**.
(01-30-99)

—Steven Kelley

ANAHEIM—WWF Royal Rumble pay-per-view at the Arrowhead Pond: **Big Bossman** pinned Hardcore champion **Jesse James** in a non-title match ... Intercontinental champion **Ken Shamrock** beat **Billy Gunn** by submission ... European champion **X-Pac** pinned **Gangrel** ... Women's champion **Sable** defeated **Luna Vachon** in a strap match ... **Rocky Maivia** defeated World champ **Mankind** in an "I Quit" match to win the title ... **Vince McMahon** won the 30-person Royal Rumble, last eliminating **Steve Austin**.
(01-24-99)

—Bill Apter

HAYWARD—All-Pro Wrestling at Tennyson High School: **Tony Jones** defeated **Vinnie Valentino** ... **Frank Murdoch** beat **Boyce LeGrande** ... **Boom Boom Comini** wrestled to a no-contest with **Maxx Justice** ... **Vinny Massaro** & **Chris Ward** beat **Jason C. Clay** & **Nathaniel Sweete** ... **Christopher Daniels** beat **Chicano Flame II** ... **Maxx Justice** beat **Michael Modest**.
(01-16-99)

—Jeremy Medeiros

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON—East Coast Wrestling Association at St. Matthew's Parish Hall: Tag team champs **Storm** & **Ace Darling** beat **Stevie Richards** & **Inferno Kid** ... **Tom Howard** defeated **Paul O** ... **Jose Estrada Jr.** & **Giant Silva** beat **Recon** & **Sniper** ... **Kurt Angle** defeated **Cyborg** ... **Reckless Youth** pinned **Flash Flanagan** ... **Glen Osbourne**, **J.R. Ryder**, & **J.J. The Ring Crew Guy** beat **The Persian Prince**, **Mr. Ooh La La**, & **Draconus** ... **Wall Wallace** (formerly known as **Pierre Oulette**) beat **Steve Bradley** ... **Steve Williams** beat **Mideon** by disqualification ... **Michael "P.S." Hayes** pinned **Lance Diamond**.
(02-06-99)

—Jeff Amdur & Bret Schwan

WILMINGTON—Grande Wrestling Alliance at the Big Kahuna Nightclub: **The Pit Bulls** defeated **The Heartbreaker** & **"Mr. Motion" Mike Tarris** ... **Middknight** defeated **O-Dogg** ... **Ron Starr** pinned **Trent Acid** ... **Bob Steele** defeated **El Nino** ... Tag team champions **The Himalaya Playas** defeated **The Krash Krew** ... **Atlas Rivera** pinned **Reckless Youth** ... **Damon Feldman** won the new boxer/wrestler title by knocking out **Billy Austin** ... **Frank Finnegan** captured the vacant Delaware state title by pinning **Patch**.
(01-30-99)

—Greg Brown

FLORIDA

WINTER HAVEN—NWA Florida at the Florida Citrus Showcase: **Chris Nelson** defeat **Brad Taylor** and **Chris Rain** in a handicap match ... Florida junior heavyweight champ **Buck Quartermane** beat **Pepe Prado** ... **The Navy SEAL** beat **Hack Myers** by submission in an "I Quit" match ... Florida heavyweight champ **Dory Funk Jr.** beat **Barry Houston** ... Florida tag team champs **B. Brian Blair** & **Steve Keirn** beat **Bart Sawyer** & **Recon** ... NWA North American champ **Colorado Kid** beat **Greg Valentine**.
(01-24-99)

—Bob Rheinhart

GEORGIA

CORNELIA—National Championship Wrestling at the NCW Arena: **Mike Brooks** pinned **Mr. Olympian** ... **Romeo Bliss** pinned **Jesse Taylor** with his feet on the ropes ... **Thunder** defeated **Spider** ... **Boogaloo Crew** beat **Damien Steel** & **Dr. Feelgood** ... **Ed of Security** pinned **Nightstalker** ... U.S. champion **Eddie Golden** defeated **Skyfire** by disqualification ... **Shane Austin** beat **Sonny Stone** by countout ... **Rick Michaels** (subbing for **Matt Hardy**) defeated **Venom** to win the heavyweight title. Later, after Venom filed a formal protest, the title was returned because Michaels never signed a contract for a title match.
(02-06-99)

—Brian Smith

ILLINOIS

PEORIA—WCW at the Civic Center: **Chris Adams** defeated **Glacier** ... **Ernest Miller** beat **Van Hammer** ... **Chris Benoit** defeated **Buddy Lee Parker** ... **Kanyon** defeated **Bobby Duncum Jr.** ... **"Diamond" Dallas Page** beat **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... **Raven** beat **Scotty Riggs** ... **Sting** beat U.S. champion **Bret Hart** in a non-title match.
(01-22-99)

—Aaron Garland

INDIANA

JEFFERSONVILLE—Ohio Valley Championship Wrestling at Davis Arena: **Chris Alexander** pinned **Rasputin** ... **Jason White** wrestled to a 10-minute draw with **Johnny Spade** ... **Juan Hurtado** beat **Doug Basham** ... **Trailer Park Trash** beat **Guido Andretti** ... **Jebediah Blackhawk** & **Cousin Otter** beat **David C** & **Damaja** ... **Rob Conway** & **Doug Basham** beat **Rip Rogers** & **Juan Hurtado** ... **Nick Dinsmore** pinned heavyweight champion **Rod Steele** for the belt, but he gave the belt back after he discovered that **Rob Conway** had struck Steele with a chair.
(02-07-99)

—Bob Pontrich

VALPARAISO—NWWA at the Armory: **Jackknife** beat **Bill Pain** ... **Chris Rock**

defeated **Hollywood Kid** ... **Lady Dementia** defeated **Miss Chrissy** for the ladies title ... Midwest champ **Duke Marx** beat **Kenny** ... **Ghetto** wrestled **Dick Lariat** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Chuckie Smooth** & **Luscious Luther** defeated **Prime Time** & **Gunz** ... **Team Canada** beat tag team champs **Sexxy Violence** to win the title.
(02-05-99)

—Mary Hornberger

KENTUCKY

MANCHESTER—Diehard Wrestling at Young's Club: **Little Sexy** defeated **The Matador** ... **Mike Woody** beat **The Cooler** ... **Jeff Anderson** defeated **Cousin Dobber** ... **Jamie Stone** wrestled to a double-disqualification with **Lee Luger** ... **The Hansen Brothers** defeated **The Hollywood Insiders**.
(02-06-99)

—Bill Needham

LOUISIANA

BATON ROUGE—Eastern Wrestling Association at the Main Event Bar & Grill: **Security** and **Guadlahora** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Boykind** defeated **Referee Pee Wee Bordelon** ... **Doomsday** defeated **The Chi-Town Connection** in an elimination match ... **Grant Champion** wrestled **The Bod Squad** to a double-disqualification ... **The Dark Angel** defeated **The Reignmaker** by countout ... **Mr. Big** defeated **Rusty Rhodes** in a chain match ... EWA champion **Ryan Riptide** defeated **The Mirror Man** in a best-of-three-falls match.
(01-30-99)

—Robert Tageant

MARYLAND

DUNDALK—MCW at Teamsters Hall: **Lance Diamond** pinned **Duane Gill** ... **Cueball Carmichael** pinned **The Shooting Star** ... **Axl Rotten** & **Headbanger Mosh** beat **Inferno Kid** & **Dino Divine** ... Cruiserweight champion **Christian York** pinned **Adam Flash** ... **Danny Rose** & **R.J. Carrington** beat **Julio Sanchez** & **Jimmy Cicero** by countout ... **2 Dope** & **Sucka Punch** won a triangle match against **Joey Matthews** & **Quinn Nash** and tag team champions **Earl the Pearl** & **Stevie Richards** to become new tag team champions ... Heavyweight champion **Romeo Valentino** pinned **Corporal Punishment** in a boot camp match.
(02-07-99)

—Timothy A. Walker

HAGERSTOWN—NWL\HOPWF at the House of Pain: **Loco** beat **Eddy Valentine** by disqualification ... **Arnold Palmmer** beat **Jerkface** ... **Steve Hill** wrestled **Biggs** to a double-countout ... **Dexter Alexander** pinned **Sharky Shultz** ... **The New Jersey Devil**, **Blackhawk**, and **Paul Beswick** wrestled to a draw in a triangle match ... **Skank** pinned **Aidlean** ... **John Rambo** pinned **Gutterboy** ... **Morgus the Maniac** pinned **Ox Hog** ... **The Cowboy Kid** won a battle royal.
(01-26-99)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

MASSACHUSETTS

FALL RIVER—ECW at the Veterans Auditorium: **Amish Roadkill** & **Danny Doring** beat **Super Nova** & **El Diablo** ... **Little Guido** & **Tracey Smothers** beat **Chris Chetti** & **Tommy Rogers** ... **Super Crazy** beat **Yoshihiro Tajiri** ... **Skull Von Crush** wrestled to a no-contest with **Rod Price** ... TV champion **Rob Van Dam** beat **Mahoney** ... **Sabu** defeated **Ulf Hermann** ... **Spike Dudley** beat **D-Von Dudley** ... Heavyweight champion **Taz** beat **John Kronus** ... **Tommy Dreamer** defeated **Justin Credible** in a ladder match.
(01-30-99)

—Doug McCloskey

FRANKLIN—Rhode Island Wrestling Alliance at the High School: **Mark Thunder** beat **The Intern** ... **Bill "Iceman" Hall** beat **Sheckey Lover** ... **Bad News** beat **Golden Hawk** & **Hector Diaz** ... **Danny Boy O'Callahan** beat **Dr. Feelgood** ... **Power Man** & **Iron Fist** defeated **Generation X**, **Dallas Austin**, & **Suicidal Youth** ... Tag team champions **Danger Boy Alfredo** & **Wolverine** defeated **Butcher Brannigan** & **Reverend Chain Link Brannigan** ... TV champion **Danny Cama** beat **Dragon Fly** ... **Pierre the Mountie** defeated **The Punisher** ... **Bad News** won a battle royal.
(01-23-99)

—A. Travieso

MICHIGAN

AUBURN HILLS—Michigan Wrestling Alliance at the Avondale High School: **Big Chuck Wagon** defeated **Bobo Brown** ... **Chris Pilon** defeated **Ricky James** ... **Hoss James** defeated **Bobby Lee** ... **Axl Rage** won a 20-man battle royal ... **The Cold Brothers** defeated tag team champions **Los Rudos** to win the belts ... **Tommy Starr** regained the heavyweight title by defeating **Gene Austin** and **Knighthawk** in a three-way streetfight.
(02-04-99)

—Andrew Ebbeskotte

DETROIT—ECW at the Fairgrounds Coliseum: **Lance Storm** defeated **Spike Dudley** ... **Sabu** defeated **One Man Gang** ... **Mahoney** beat **Rod Price** ... **Super Nova** & **Antifaz del Norte** beat **Little Guido** & **Tracey Smothers** ... **Yoshihiro Tajiri** beat **Super Crazy** ... **Chris Chetti** wrestled to a no-contest with **Amish Roadkill** ... TV champion **Rob Van Dam** beat **Ulf Hermann** ... **Tommy Dreamer** defeated **Justin Credible** and **Lance Storm** in a three-way dance.
(01-23-99)

—Michael Richardson

MINNESOTA

PIERZ—AWA at Healy High School: **Dusty Nord** pinned **Billy Blaze Jr.** ... **The Farmer** pinned **Matt Burns** ... **Tony DeNucci** pinned **Chi-Town Thug** ... **Lenny Lane** beat **Sheik Ali** ... **Jim Brunzell** & **Horace the Psychopath** beat **Bill Irwin** & **The Farmer** ... **Billy Blaze Jr.** won a battle royal.
(01-22-99)

—Carla DeMonco

MISSISSIPPI

JACKSON—WCW at the Coliseum: **Glacier** defeated **Chris Adams** ... **Bobby Duncum Jr.** beat **Kanyon** ... **Raven** beat **Scotty Riggs** ... **Van Hammer** beat **Ernest Miller** ... **Chris Benoit** defeated **Buddy Lee Parker** ... **"Diamond" Dallas Page** beat **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... **Sting** defeated U.S. champion **Bret Hart** in a non-title match.
(01-23-99)

—Chris Tandy

NEVADA

LAS VEGAS—BWF at the Buffalo Wrestling School: **Chris Lozansky** defeated **Ocyrus** ... **Damien Dallas** defeated **Cincinnati Red** ... **Suicide Kid** defeated **Shooting Star** ... **Rush** won

(Continued on page 50)

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arena reports

(Continued from page 49)

a 10-man elimination match when he pinned the last man remaining, **Mike Lane**, and thus became the first-ever BWF heavyweight champion.
(01-15-99)

—Gary Mills

NEW HAMPSHIRE

DURHAM—WCW at the Whittemore Center: **Super Calo** beat **Damian** ... Cruiserweight champion **Billy Kidman** beat **Vince** in a non-title match ... **Juventud Guerrera** beat **Ciclope** ... **Rey Misterio Jr.** beat **Norman Smiley** ... **Ernest Miller** beat **Jerry Flynn** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** beat **Curt Hennig** ... **Chris Benoit, Ric Flair**, & **Steve McMichael** defeated **Horace Hogan, Stevie Ray**, & **Brian Adams**.
(02-05-99)

—Joe Williams

NEW JERSEY

SOUTH PLAINFIELD—Independent Wrestling Federation at Grand Slam USA: **Biggie Biggs** pinned **Zieg** ... **Flash Wheeler** pinned **Rocco Dorsey** ... **C.J. Summers** wrestled **Judas Young** to a no-contest ... **Twiggy Ramirez** & **Kevin Knight** defeated **Steve Corino** & **Lance Diamond** (with **Donnie B**) in a submission match when **Donnie B** threw in the towel for his team ... **Harley Lewis** pinned **James Proper** ... **Lupus** beat **Rik Ratchet** (with **Donnie B** & **BobCat**) in a lumberjack match to win the heavyweight title. Lupus vacated his national title due to the win.
(01-23-99)

—Paul Meyers

EAST RUTHERFORD—WWF at the Continental Airlines Arena: **Steve Blackman** defeated **Tiger Ali Singh** ... **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** defeated **The Godfather** & **Val Venis** ... European champion **X-Pac** beat **Owen Hart** ... **Christian Cage, Edge**, & **Gangrel** defeated **Bob Holly, 2 Cold Scorpio**, & **Al Snow** ... **The Undertaker** beat **Rocky Maivia** ... **D-Lo Brown** & **Mark Henry** defeated **Skull** & **Eight-Ball** ... **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **Goldust** ... **Big Bossman** & **Test** beat **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** & **Jesse James** ... World champion **Mankind** beat **Kane**.
(01-17-99)

—Sandy Gaines

NEW YORK

UTICA—WCW at the Memorial Auditorium: **Super Calo** beat **Damian** ... Cruiserweight champion **Billy Kidman** beat **Vince** in a non-title match ... **Juventud Guerrera** beat **Ciclope** ... **Rey Misterio Jr.** beat **Norman Smiley** ... **Jerry Flynn** beat **Ernest Miller** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** beat **Curt Hennig** ... **Chris Benoit, Ric Flair**, & **Steve McMichael** beat **Brian Adams, Horace Hogan**, & **Stevie Ray**.
(02-06-99)

—Robert Holmes

NORTH CAROLINA

CONCORD—ECW at the Academy Recreation Center: **Danny Doring** defeated **Super Nova** ... **Chris Chetti** & **Tommy Rogers** beat **Little Guido** & **Tracey Smothers** ... **Super Crazy** beat **Yoshihiro Tajiri** ... **Spike Dudley** beat **"Big" Dick Dudley** ... **Buh Buh Ray** & **D-Von Dudley** beat **Axl Rotten** & **Mahoney** ... **Justin Credible** beat **Tommy Dreamer** ... Heavyweight champion **Taz** wrestled to a draw with **Sabu** ... TV champion **Rob Van Dam** beat **Jerry Lynn**.
(02-06-99)

—Paul Saunders

GREENSBORO—WWF at the Coliseum: **Christian Cage** & **Edge** defeated **Bob Holly** & **The Blue Meanie** ... **Steve Blackman** beat **Dan Severn** ... **Luna Vachon** beat **Jacquelyn** ... **Al Snow** defeated **Goldust** ... **Jeff** & **Matt Hardy** won a four-way match, beating **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq, The Godfather** & **Val Venis**, and **D-Lo Brown** & **Mark Henry** ... **Steve Austin** won a non-title four-way match, beating **Mankind, Rocky Maivia**, and **Kane** ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** beat **Test** ... **The Undertaker** beat **Big Bossman** ... Intercontinental champion **Ken Shamrock** beat **Billy Gunn** by disqualification ... World tag team champions **Owen Hart** & **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **Jesse James** & **X-Pac**.
(02-05-99)

—Michael Hendrick

OHIO

CLEVELAND—WCW at the Cleveland State University Convocation Center: **Super Calo** & **Norman Smiley** beat **Ciclope** & **Damian** ... Cruiserweight champion **Billy Kidman** beat **Juventud Guerrera** and **Rey Misterio Jr.** in a triangle match ... **Jerry Flynn** beat **Ernest Miller** ... **Chris Benoit, Ric Flair**, & **Steve McMichael** defeated **Stevie Ray, Horace Hogan**, & **Brian Adams** ... **"Diamond" Dallas Page** pinned **Curt Hennig** ... **Sting** defeated U.S. champion **Bret Hart** in a non-title match ... **Bill Goldberg** defeated **Bam Bam Bigelow**.
(02-07-99)

—John Pithers

CLEVELAND—WWF at Gund Arena (afternoon card): **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** beat **Skull** & **Eight-Ball** ... **Bob Holly** beat **Christian Cage** ... **Al Snow** defeated **Goldust** ... World tag team champions **Owen Hart** & **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **Jesse James** & **X-Pac** in a guitar-on-a-pole match ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** defeated **Chyna** by disqualification ... **D-Lo Brown** & **Mark Henry** defeated **The Godfather** & **Val Venis** ... Intercontinental champion **Ken Shamrock** defeated **Billy Gunn** by disqualification ... World champion **Mankind** won a fatal four-way match, defeating **Big Bossman, The Undertaker**, and **Rocky Maivia**.
(01-30-99)

—Brad Peterson

OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY—Mid-South Wrestling at the new Mid-South Arena: **The Oklahoma Striker** beat **Overdose** ... **Chief Jeff Tiger** wrestled to a no-contest with **The New Dr. X** ... **Rebel** beat **The Texas Outlaw** by disqualification ... **The Oklahoma Kid** beat **Mad Dog** ... **Slash** beat **The Blond Bomber** ... **Rick Garrett** beat **Luscious Larry** by disqualification ... **Studd Lee** beat **Tom Jones** in a lumberjack strap match ... The tag team title was held up after a match between champions **The Oklahoma Express** and **Pleasure and Pain** ended in a double-pin.
(02-07-99)

—Jim C. Compton

PENNSYLVANIA

READING—Pennsylvania Championship Wrestling at the Cloister: **Tom Howard** beat **Paul O** ... **Reckless Youth** pinned **Mike Quackenbush** ... **Chris Krueger** & **Mr. Ooh La La** beat **Tommy Golden** & **J.J. Johnston** ... **Recon** & **Sniper** defeated **Glen Kulka** & **Jose Estrada Jr.** ... **Giant Silva** beat **Mideon** by disqualification ... **Flash Flanagan** defeated **Ace Darling** to win the Americas title ... **Kurt Angle** defeated **Steve Bradley** ... **Steve Williams** pinned **Pierre Oulette** ... **Michael "P.S." Hayes** pinned **Lance Diamond**.
(02-05-99)

—Timothy A. Walker

PHILADELPHIA—WWF at the First Union Center: **Christian Cage** & **Edge** defeated **2 Cold Scorpio** & **Bob Holly** after **Gangrel** interfered ... **Steve Blackman** pinned **Dan Severn** ... **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** defeated **Skull** & **Eight-Ball** ... **Al Snow** pinned **Goldust** ... **D-Lo Brown** & **Mark Henry** defeated **The Godfather** & **Val Venis** after **Ken Shamrock** interfered ... World tag team champions **Owen Hart** & **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **X-Pac** & **Jesse James** in a guitar-on-a-pole match after **Chyna** interfered ... Intercontinental champion **Ken Shamrock** beat **Billy Gunn** by disqualification ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** defeated **Chyna** by disqualification ... World champion **Mankind** won a fatal four-way match, defeating **Rocky Maivia, Big Bossman**, and **The Undertaker** when he pinned Bossman.
(01-31-99)

—Lloyd Markley

RHODE ISLAND

BRISTOL—Unified Championship Wrestling at Mount Hope High School: Cruiserweight champion **Iceberg** defeated **Dr. Feelgood** ... **Ebony Blade** & **Dr. Heresy** beat **Thrash** & **Draven** by disqualification ... Ladies champion **Sandy Starr** beat **Keiko** ... **Don Juan Desanto** wrestled to a no-contest with **Dane** ... **Derrick Destiny** pinned **Vertebreaker** ... **Chief Foxx** wrestled to a double-countout with **Gino Martino** ... **Maniac Inc.** defeated tag team champions **Latin Fury** to regain the title ... Heavyweight champion **Billy Black** defeated **Shane Simons**.
(02-06-99)

—Anthony Rufo

SOUTH CAROLINA

COLUMBIA—ECW at the Township Auditorium: **Jerry Lynn** & **Nova** defeated **Amish Roadkill** & **Danny Doring** ... **Spike Dudley** beat **"Big" Dick Dudley** ... **Little Guido** & **Tracey Smothers** defeated **Chris Chetti** & **Tommy Rogers** ... **Yoshihiro Tajiri** beat **Super Crazy** ... **Buh Buh Ray** & **D-Von Dudley** beat **Axl Rotten** & **Mahoney** ... **Sabu** beat **One Man Gang** ... TV champion **Rob Van Dam** beat **Spike Dudley** ... Heavyweight champion **Taz** beat **Shane Douglas**.
(02-05-99)

—Michael Carpenter

NEW PROSPECT—American Pro Wrestling at the Schamrock Cafe: All-State champion **Johnny Dollar** beat **The Southern Outlaw** ... **Big Mac Truck** beat **Lee Stone** ... **Special Forces** defeated **Twisted Sister** & **Mike Pain** ... **Buddy Burke** beat **The Nightmare** ... **Billy Badd** & **Blackjack Dalton** beat **The Border Patrol** by disqualification ... **Dr. Feelgood** & **Hunter Thompson** beat **Shane Austin** & **Sonny Stone** for the tag team title.
(01-22-99)

—Dan Parris

TENNESSEE

KINGSPORT—Southern States Wrestling at the Civic Auditorium: **Rob Valor** beat **Mike Cooper** ... **Joe Fillers** beat **Scotty McKeever** ... **K.C. Thunder** defeated **Chuck Jones** ... **Iron Cross** beat **Steve Flynn** to win the Appalachian title ... **Death and Destruction** beat tag team champions **The Christian Brothers** for the belts ... **Chris Walker** beat **Skyfire**, **Eight-Ball Jones**, and **K.C. Thunder** in an elimination match ... Heavyweight champion **Beau James** wrestled to a no-contest with **Ricky Harrison**.
(01-30-99)

—Fay Ferguson

TEXAS

HUMBLE—Texas All-Star Wrestling at the Bingo Hall Arena: ***One-night tournament to declare new tag team champs, first round:*** **Sid Sexy** & **Jason Nash** beat **Mr. F.K.** & **Mr. X** ... **Tank Tyler** & **Mike Tatum** beat **Wichita Willie** & **Maddog** ... **The Rasta Savage** & **The Terminator** defeated **Johnny Blade** & **Iron Mike** ... ***Semifinals:*** Nash & Sexy beat Tyler & Tatum (Savage & Terminator had a bye) ... ***Finals:*** Terminator & Savage beat Nash & Sexy to win the tournament and the title ... Cruiserweight champion **Jag** beat **Chris Cheetum**.
(02-06-99)

—Bob Sumner

SAN ANTONIO—Pro Wrestling International at the Pro Wrestling International Arena: **Ace Cage** won an eight-man battle royal ... **Rudy Boy** defeated **Tito Sanchez** ... **Ken Johsnon** and **Judge Doom** wrestled to a double-disqualification ... Heavyweight champion **Pete Lothario** defeated **Bobby Perez** in a Texas death match.
(01-22-99)

—Chris Buchhorn

COPPELL—NWA Southwest at the High School: **Kit Carson** pinned **Jimmy James** ... **Cedric of Hollywood** beat **Tejas** ... **Khris Germany** pinned **New Dr. X** ... **Kurt Reigns** pinned **Mace** ... **Canyon** pinned **Cody Lobo** ... **Super T** wrestled to a double-disqualification with **Bull Schmidt**.
(01-16-99)

—Ken Taylor

VIRGINIA

STUART—AIWF at Rotary Field: **Jumpin' Jimmy** defeated **Jammer** and **Gemini** in a triangle match ... Light heavyweight champion **Beuford Beaumont** beat **Bad Brad** in a lumberjack strap match ... **The Mercenaries** defeated **The Natural Born Killers** ... **Jackie Anderson** won the TV belt by beating champion **Lamont Steel**, **Luscious Kevin**, and **Steve Niles** in a four-way pole match ... **The Tennessee Violence Authority** defeated **The Bad Street Boyz** for the tag team title ... Heavyweight champion **Terminator X** beat **Chainz** ... **The Family** defeated **The War Machines**.
(01-30-99)

—Dean Puckett

WOODBRIDGE—IPWA at the High School: **Chilly Willie** pinned **Shorty Smalls** ... **Otto Schwanz** (with **Count Grog**) pinned **Dan Rage** when Grog tripped Rage and held his leg down ... **Mark Shrader** pinned **Frank Stalletto** ... **Cueball Carmichael** & **Jimmy Cicero** defeated tag team champions **Big Slam** & **Chris Stephenson** to win the title. After the match, Stephenson attacked Big Slam, and Slam announced that he was firing manager **Vinnie Gambini** ... **R.J. Carrington** beat **Corporal Punishment** ... **Julio Sanchez** won a triangle match over **Christian York** and light heavyweight champion **Joey Matthews** to win the championship ... Heavyweight champion **Tom Brandi** beat **King Kong Bundy** (managed by **Vinnie Gambini**).
(01-23-99)

—Timothy A. Walker

WEST VIRGINIA

WHEELING—WWF at the Civic Center: **Gangrel** & **Edge** beat **Bob Holly** & **2 Cold Scorpio** ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** beat **Kane** by disqualification ... Intercontinental champion **Ken Shamrock** beat **Billy Gunn** by disqualification ... World tag team champions **Owen Hart** & **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **Big Bossman** & **Test** ... **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** defeated **Skull** & **Eight-Ball** ... **Steve Blackman** defeated **Dan Severn** ... **D-Lo Brown** & **Mark Henry** beat **The Godfather** & **Val Venis** ... **Al Snow** pinned **Goldust** ... World champion **Mankind** defeated **Rocky Maivia**.
(01-28-99)

—Angela Hopkins

CHARLESTON—WCW Souled Out pay-per-view at the Civic Center: **Chris Benoit** defeated **Mike Enos** by submission ... **Norman Smiley** defeated **Chavo Guerrero Jr.** by submission ... **Dave "Fit" Finlay** pinned **Van Hammer** (substituting for **Steve McMichael**) ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** pinned **Wrath** ... **Lex Luger** defeated **Konnan** by submission after **Elizabeth** interfered ... **Chris Jericho** pinned **Perry Saturn**. As the result of a prematch stipulation, for the next 90 days, Saturn had to wear a dress when he wrestled ... Cruiserweight champion **Billy Kidman** defeated **Psicosis**, **Rey Misterio Jr.**, and **Juventud Guerrera** in a four-way match when he pinned Guerrera ... **David** & **Ric Flair** defeated **Curt Hennig** & **Barry Windham** when David pinned Hennig after **Arn Anderson** struck Hennig with a tire iron ... **Bill Goldberg** defeated **Scott Hall** in a ladder/taser match.
(01-17-99)

—Nick Braxton

WEIRTON—Steel City Wrestling at Millsop Community Center: **Julio Sanchez** pinned **Joey Matthews** ... **Lord Zoltan** & **Shirley Doe** beat **The Intimidators** ... **Christian York** pinned **Don Montoya** ... **King Kong Bundy** pinned **Tom Brandi** ... **Super Hentai** defeated **Vince Viper** ... Heavyweight champion **Dennis Gregory** pinned **Jimmy Cicero** in a no-disqualification match ... **The Blue Meanie** pinned TV champion **"Beef Stew" Lou Marconi** to win the title.
(01-17-99)

—Jeff Gorman

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

LANGLEY, BRITISH COLUMBIA—NWA-PNW at the House of Pain Wrestling School: **Biohazard** defeated **Paul the Giant** ... **Orderly Manson** beat **Dancin' Fury** by disqualification ... **Todd Kelley** beat **Michelle Starr** by disqualification ... **Juggernaut** beat **Chance Beckett** ... **The Orderlies** & **Barbara Republic** beat **Bob Brown Jr.**, **Dancin' Fury**, & **J.J. Jerkyl**.
(02-07-99)

—Tom Kozina

MONTREAL, QUEBEC—Northern Championship Wrestling at the NDR Center: **Iceman** & **Black Eagle** beat Quebec tag team champions **Access Denied** to win the title ... **Marc the Grizzly** beat **Dream Killer** to win the Quebec title ... **Sylvain Lane** beat **Guy Williams** ... **Dream Warriors** beat **Dan the Reaper** & **El Diablero Jr.** ... **Cobra** beat **Yvandust** ... **Steven the Sweet Boy** beat **Raiden** ... **Sebastian Thompson** beat **T.N.T.** ... **Jason** beat **Marz**.
(1-30-99)

—Bertrand Hebert

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY
JULY

LOUISIANA

SHREVEPORT—Mid-South Promotions at the Municipal Auditorium: **Dick Reynolds** defeated **Bill Ash** ... **Bill Dromo** defeated **Ted DiBiase** ... **Ken Mantell** defeated **Ronnie Garvin** ... **Danny Miller** beat North American champion **"Dirty" Dick Murdoch** when guest referee **Pat O'Connor** disqualified Murdoch ... **Vic Muehler** defeated **Buck Robely** in a steel cage match.
(07-08-75)

—PWI archives

PENNSYLVANIA

PITTSBURGH—WWWF at Civic Arena: **Manny Soto** defeated **Frank Durso** ... **Chief White Owl** beat **Tony Altimore** by disqualification ... **Victor Rivera** beat **Mike Paidousis** ... **Dominic DeNucci** pinned **Ramon Lopez** ... NWF tag team champions **The Fargos** defeated **Johnny DeFazio** & **Frank Holtz** ... NWF champion **Waldo Von Erich** defeated **Tony Parisi** by countout ... **Bruno Sammartino** defeated **George "The Animal" Steele** by submission in a lumberjack match.
(07-22-72)

—PWI archives

MANITOBA

WINNIPEG—AWA at the Arena: **Jackie Nichols** and **Thor Hagen** wrestled to a draw ... **Doug Gilbert** defeated **Blackjack Daniels** ... **Joe Scarpello** defeated **Bearcat Wright** ... **Ilio Di Paulo** and **Bob Geigel** wrestled to a double-countout ... **Verne Gagne** defeated **Mr. M** in a steel cage match and later unmasked Mr. M, who was revealed to be **Bill Miller**.
(07-13-62)

—PWI archives

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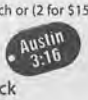

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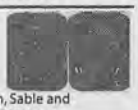

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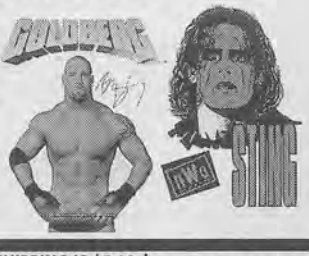

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ringside

(Continued from page 8)

around the waist of the second greatest NWOite in the world, Scott Steiner!"

Speaking of Misterio, the idea of wrestling without his mask still doesn't feel right to him.

"When **Juventud Guerrera** lost his mask last year, I shrugged and felt a little bad for him," Misterio said. "He was a wreck. He was depressed for weeks afterward. I couldn't really relate to his situation. Now that I've been unmasked, I realize the mental torture he went through. This mask was an honor bestowed upon me by my uncle, and I feel terrible that this has happened. But I can't turn back the clock, so I'll just have to deal with it."

In the eyes of the fans, Misterio redeemed himself when he cleanly pinned **Kevin Nash** on *Nitro* the night after he lost his mask.

A very shocking end to my column this month. I hate reporting on deaths in our sport, but when I hear about a young wrestler committing suicide, it hurts even more. **Richard C. Wilson**, who wrestled in WCW as **The Renegade**, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound in his home in Marietta, Georgia, on February 23. According to published reports, Wilson was upset about the loss of his job with WCW and his financial situation.

Richard Wilson (a.k.a. The Renegade) was the proud holder of the WCW TV belt for three months in 1995. Wilson committed suicide at his home in Georgia on February 23.

Wilson, who became The Renegade in 1995, won the TV title from **Arn Anderson** on June 18 of that year and held it until September 17, when **"Diamond" Dallas Page** beat him. Before starting in WCW, he wrestled in New England independents as **Rio, Lord of the Jungle**. He also competed in Japan's WAR promotion. Wilson was 33 years old at the time of his death.

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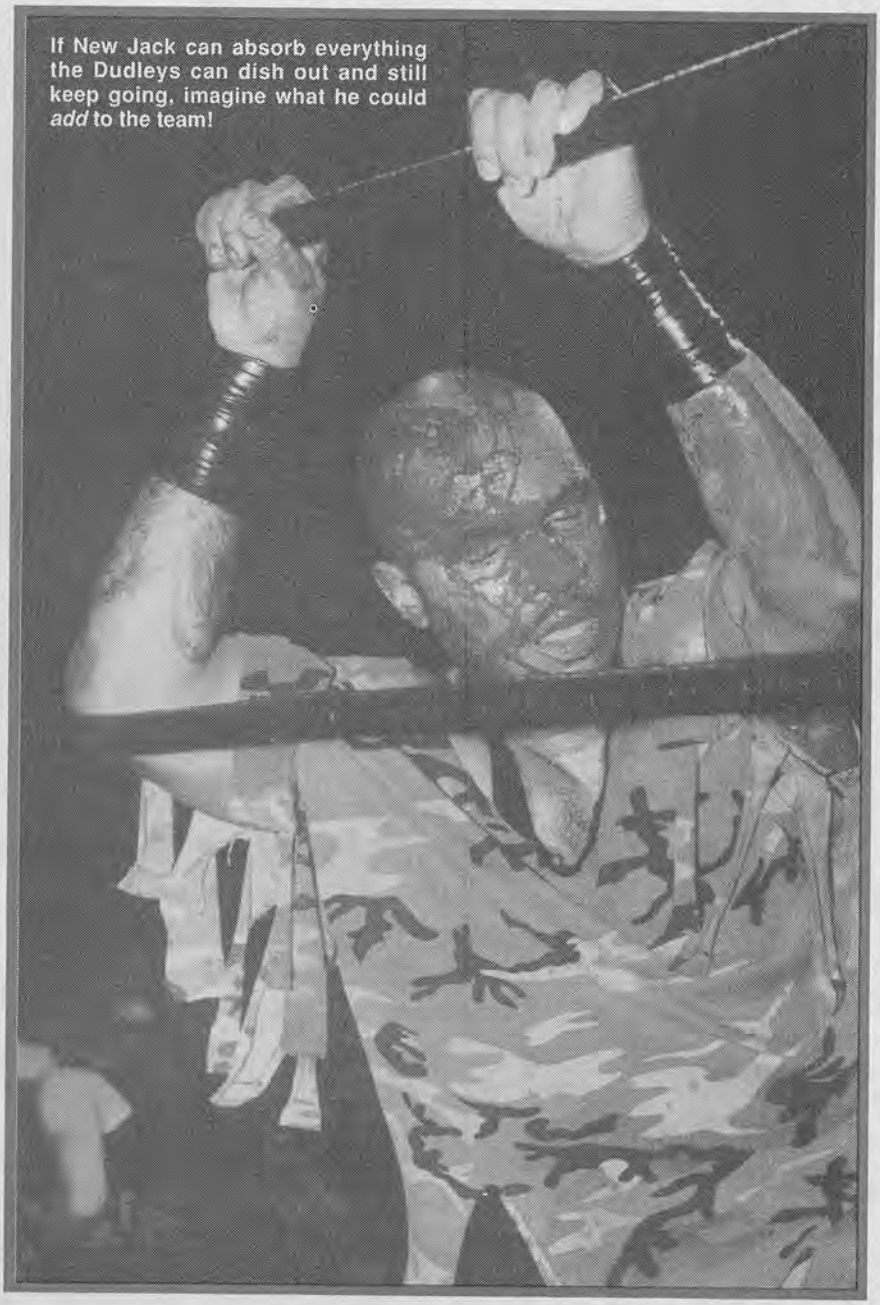
(Continued from page 21)

their legacy, and if they want to improve on that legacy, Spike and New Jack would certainly be the men for the job. But I just can't see either of them going for it."

When asked about the proposal, New Jack reacted as Styles predicted.

"Gertner said what?" New Jack asked incredulously. "I can't blame the Dudleys for wantin' me on their side so I don't beat on their hefty hides no more, but what the hell would I stand to gain by becomin' a Dudley? What, do they give me free overalls or somethin'? Hey—tell 'em thanks, but no thanks."

While New Jack laughed off Gertner's offer and Spike refused to comment at all, the proposal may not be as one-sided as it would seem. Say what you will about Gertner's personality, but he always manages to get his men the matches they want. When Buh Buh and D-Von went to Gertner and said they wanted to face Public Enemy, Gertner devised a plan to anger the hardcore legends enough that they returned to the ECW Arena to answer the challenge. Gertner has given the Dudleys focus, and has soothed over the arguments his charges have had after losses. In other words, he has done a tremendous job as the Dudleys' manager.



If New Jack can absorb everything the Dudleys can dish out and still keep going, imagine what he could *add* to the team!

On the other hand, Spike and New Jack have been winning matches, but are stuck on a treadmill. Neither man has seriously contended for a title in months. An alliance with the Dudleys could be just what they need to break into ECW's upper echelon.

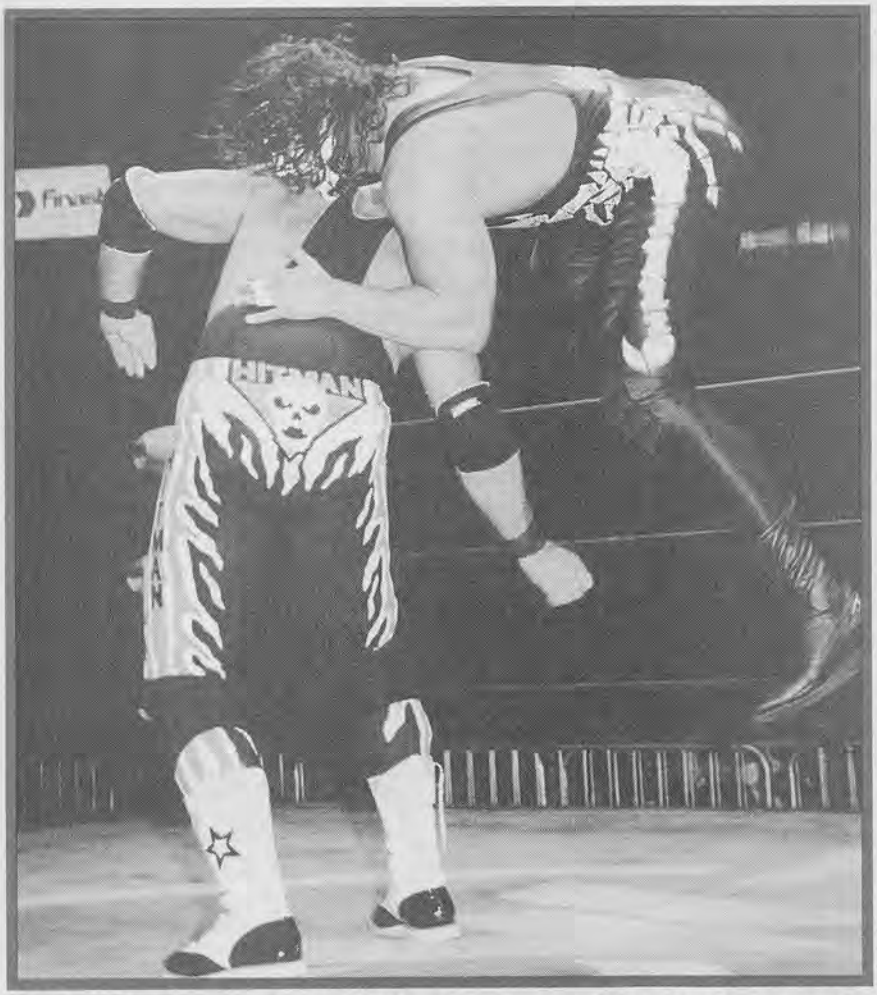
The biggest unknown in all of this is Spike. While he has faced his half-brothers many times over the past two years, he rarely voices his opinion in public. What would it take for Spike to reunite with the Dudleys who spurned him? Would Spike be willing to jeopardize his friendship with Dreamer and his relationship with the fans to side with Buh Buh Ray and D-Von? And, most important of all, would the move jeopardize his career as Gertner focuses on getting top matches for New Jack and the Dudleys, rather than continue to develop Spike?

In any case, the offer, Buh Buh says, remains on the table.

"After we run PE out of Philly, Spike and New Jerk are next. Either they can run with the big dogs, or they can get chunks taken out of them by the pit bulls. Either way, we win."

And a win in the battle for respect would be the Dudleys' biggest victory yet. □

(Continued from page 34)



There doesn't seem to be much point in Sting going after the "Hitman" now. He has shown he can beat him, and Hart no longer holds a title. Maybe we'll be seeing a renewal of the old Sting-Flair feud soon.

in. It started with a nasty rumor that Lex Luger and the new NWO were after Sting, and that Sting was possibly interested in joining the red and black. The rumor got back to Flair, who called Sting and set up a brief meeting in his office.

"Are you going to go NWO on me?" Flair asked point-blank when Sting arrived.

"Why do you want to know?" a befuddled Sting answered.

"Because if you're going NWO, you're not getting the title match."

Sting wouldn't answer Flair's question. A day later, he found out that Roddy Piper, who hadn't wrestled in months and last held the U.S. championship in 1983, had been handed a February 8 title shot. Piper went on to beat Hart for the belt with help from *Mad TV's* Will Sasso.

"Listen, I'm not going to sit here and whine that the match was mine, but a promise is a promise, isn't it?" Sting said. "Flair never said anything to me about any conditions attached. He just told me that if I handled Hart in the non-title matches, I'd get the title shot. That was it. Then he starts throwing in things about the NWO, asking me about stuff that, to tell you the truth, is none of his business. I could have told him, 'No, Ric, I'm not going NWO,' but I didn't think he had any right to ask me the question. It shouldn't have been a factor.

"Hey, maybe I bit off my nose to spite my face. But I was mad. I was stunned. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I did what I said I was going to do. He didn't do what he said he was going to do, and that's not right. Bischoff would have given me the match. Maybe he wouldn't have been happy about it, but he would have given me the match. And, to tell you the truth, I don't think it's right that Flair is abusing his power to kill off the NWO. Let the NWO kill itself off. It happened before."

Several phone calls to Flair asking for comment went unanswered until a day before press time, when we warned him that the story would be printed even if he didn't answer our questions. Finally, Flair told us this: "No guarantees were ever made. I told Sting that if he did well, he'd be considered for a title shot against Hart sometime before SuperBrawl on February 21. But things happened, and Piper obviously proved himself to be a worthy contender by winning the belt. Sting will get his chance. He just has to be patient."

Patience is a trait that's in short supply for Sting.

Just as he insists honesty is in short supply for Flair.

"It's not my job to be patient," Sting said. "I just want to know this one thing from Flair: Can I trust him, or is he going to keep lying to me? Everyone knows we've had our problems before. And I have to tell you that I feel a lot safer with Bischoff in control and with the NWO running rampant than with Flair on his little power trip. I hate to say it, but it's the truth."

The truth might not hurt Flair. But Flair's dishonesty seems to have cost Sting a shot at the U.S. title. A shot at the U.S. title that he had earned. □

(Continued from page 23)

As Hardcore champion, "Road Dog" was willing to take on anybody—even a madman like Kane, who outweighs him by more than 100 powerful pounds.

any team holding on to those belts had best watch their [butts].

LENKER: Are you still planning to focus on the Hardcore title, or will you be moving on from there?

JAMES: I'm still focused on being the Hardcore champion for two reasons. One, I never lost it. It took Vinnie Mac's little group to take me out and injure me so I couldn't defend it. So there's some retribution I need to attend to—and soon. Secondly, Billy's gunning for that I-C title, and X-Pac needs to get that European strap back from that punk Shane McMahon.

APTER: Do you think you're more suited for the Hardcore title because of your wrestling style?

JAMES: Maybe. After all, I hate rules, and I ain't too good with authority. The Hardcore belt allows you to push that envelope and not worry about disqualifications or countouts. You win or lose on your own, man. Besides, I'm a bit of a brawler at heart, and if there's a weapon nearby, I sure as hell want to use it.

ANDERSON: So it's safe to say that Bob Holly, the new champion, better watch his back.

JAMES: Hey, I got nothing personal against Bob Holly. He won that belt fair and square, at least as far as the rules in those kind of matches go. But he has to realize that no one pinned me for it. A stroke of the Corporate pen is the reason I'm not the champion right now. He owes me a shot, and when that opportunity comes, you'll see a new champion.

LENKER: But you're not forgetting about the Corporation.

JAMES: Never. There's gonna be retribution for that, too. They think they can add to their ranks. Well, they haven't seen what DX can do. If they thought they saw hardcore from me before, they ain't seen nothing yet.

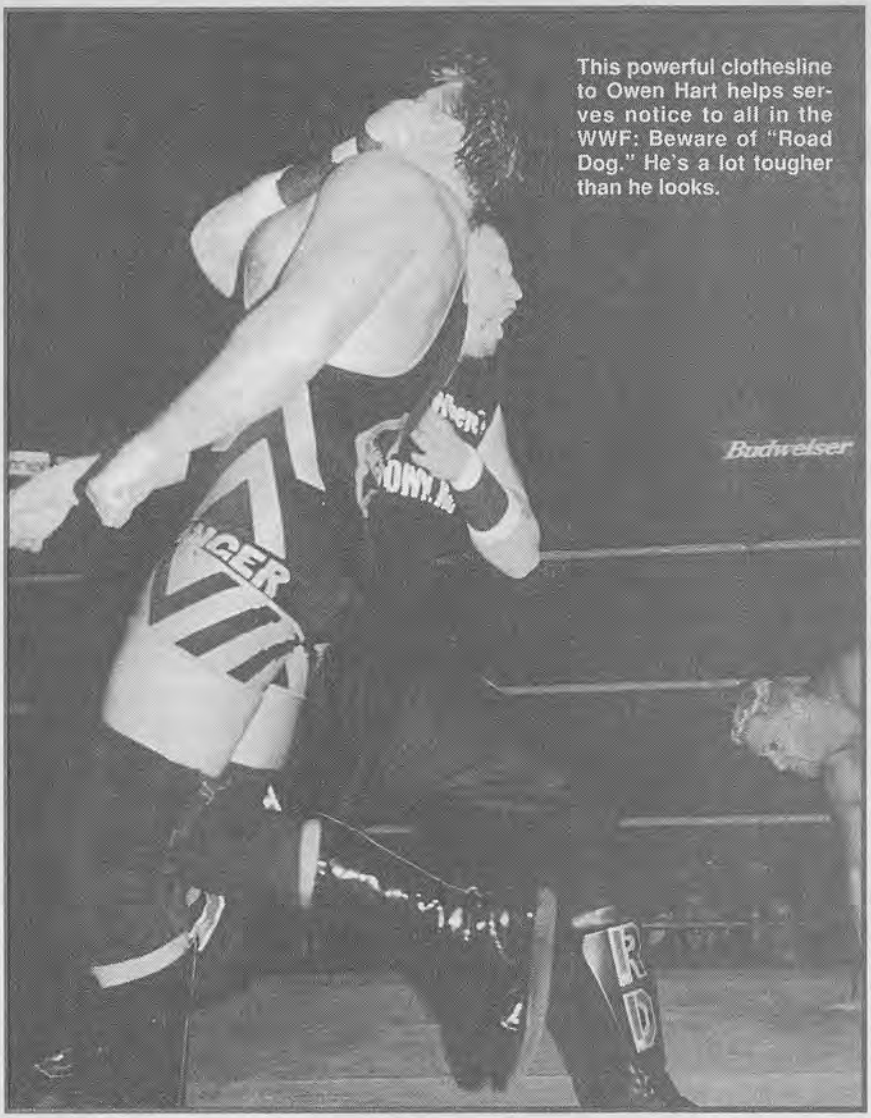
APTER: Let's talk about the latest happenings in DX. Tell us about Chyna.

JAMES: Chyna has nothing to do with the *latest happenings* in DX. There's a great word to describe her, but I recognize this is a family publication, so I'll do the unthinkable: I'll censor myself. Chyna is nothing more than a glory hound who went for the easy money. After all that "Triple-H" did for her. He took her off the streets where she was scaring little kids and brought her to the WWF. He made that freakish mute a star, and how does she repay him? By joining the enemy.

ANDERSON: Could Chyna be a potential opponent if you ever get that Hardcore title back?

JAMES: Let's make this clear,

James says there's still retribution to be dealt out—to Jarrett and to all members of the Corporation, among others.



This powerful clothesline to Owen Hart helps serves notice to all in the WWF: Beware of "Road Dog." He's a lot tougher than he looks.

Steve. I *will* get that title back. As far as Chyna goes, if she wants a piece of the "Road Dog," she knows exactly where to look. I was always told never to hit a lady, which means I can beat the living hell out of someone like Chyna. I look forward to it.

LENKER: Let's suppose something for a minute. Let's suppose that one of The New Age Outlaws does hold a singles title for a significant amount of time. Isn't it inevitable that you would meet your partner at some point in a title match?

JAMES: That's right. This is a business. I'm tight with Billy and everyone in DX. They have goals just like me, and if that goal is keeping a grip on the belt I'm wearing, or if I want a title that someone else has, you're damn right we're going to go after it. We're wrestlers first and foremost; we're a team second. Nothing personal. Nothing that would destroy a friendship. Just two guys seeing who is the better man.

APTER: What is the timeline for your comeback?

JAMES: Any day now. Hell, today if I had my way. The Corporation got me good, but they didn't finish me off. The "Road Dog" won't go down that easy. I had to be damn tough to get to this dance, and my toughness is what will help me stay for a long, long time. That Hardcore title is as good as mine. Same with everyone in that Corporation. You haven't seen my last match, and you haven't heard the last of my ring announcing.

ANDERSON: Do you have any parting comments?

JAMES: Well, I got two words, but I don't think you'll print them. □

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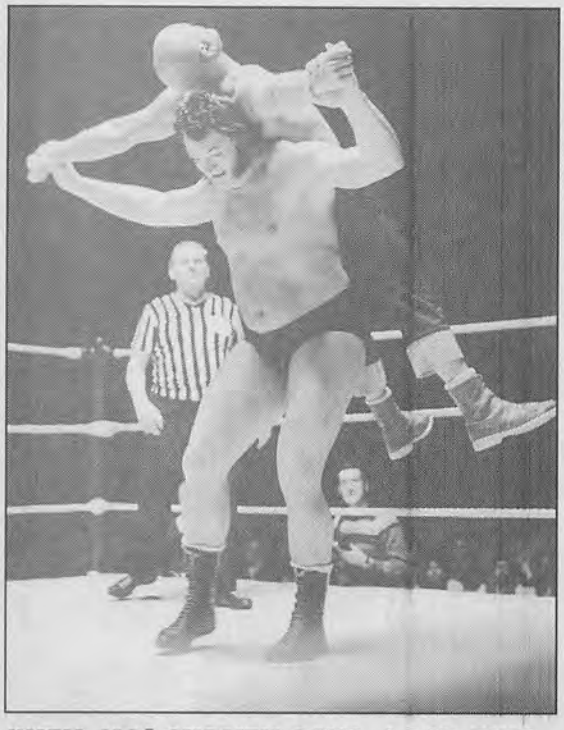


"HEY, YO! SURVEY SAYS, I DID THIS MOVE FIRST"

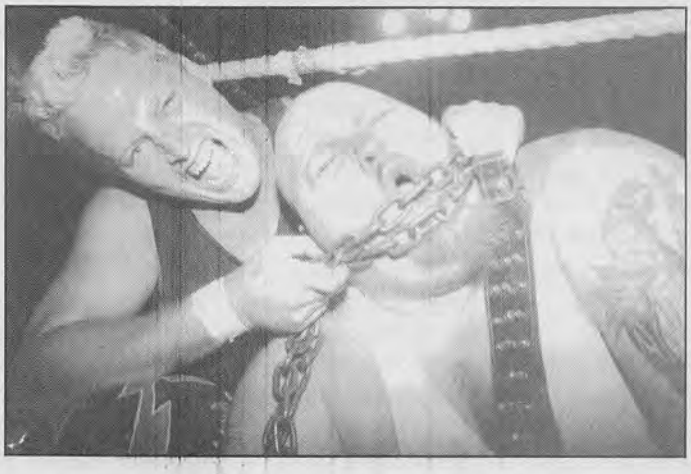
Years before Scott Hall developed the Outsider's edge (a.k.a. the Razor's edge and the diamond death drop), WWWF superstar Don Leo Jonathan was punishing foes with what looks like the precursor to Hall's favorite maneuver.

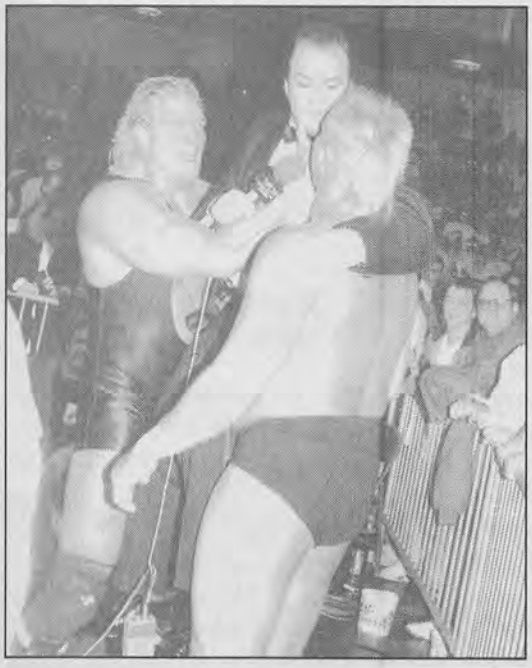
SAYONARA, MR. SAITO

Masa Saito lands a chop to the back of Wahoo McDaniel during a bloody 1979 strap match. McDaniel might not be so sad that Saito retired on February 14, but fans of New Japan Pro Wrestling sure are. Saito will remain on board with New Japan as an adviser.

MR. SANDMAN, BRING ME SOME CHAINS ...

You can bet Crybaby Waldo wasn't singing that tune when The Sandman gave in to his extreme impulses and wrapped the metal around Waldo's face in this 1991 dog-collar match. You might say that Sandman gave Crybaby something to cry about.





"SORRY, DAN, I'VE ALREADY PROMISED SID A JOB IN ECW"

Is it any wonder Sid Vicious resurfaced in ECW recently? After all, Sid and Paul E. Dangerously (Paul Heyman) go way back to the early-'90s, when Heyman worked as an announcer for WCW and Vicious wrestled with tag team partner Dan Spivey. Judging by fan reaction at recent ECW events, Heyman did the right thing by bringing him in.

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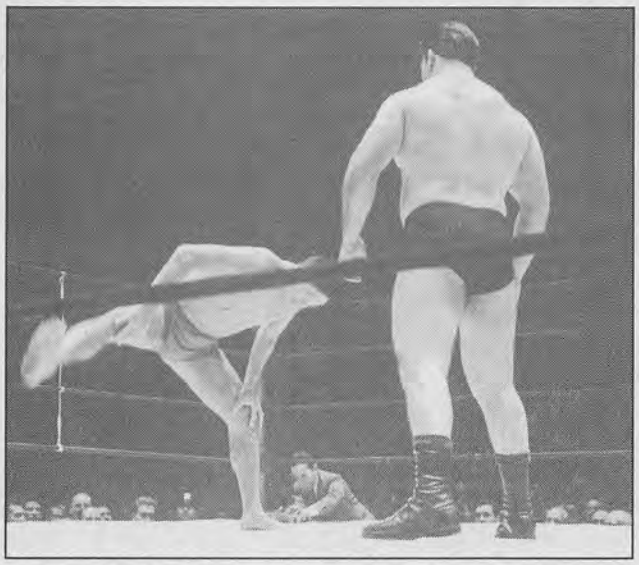
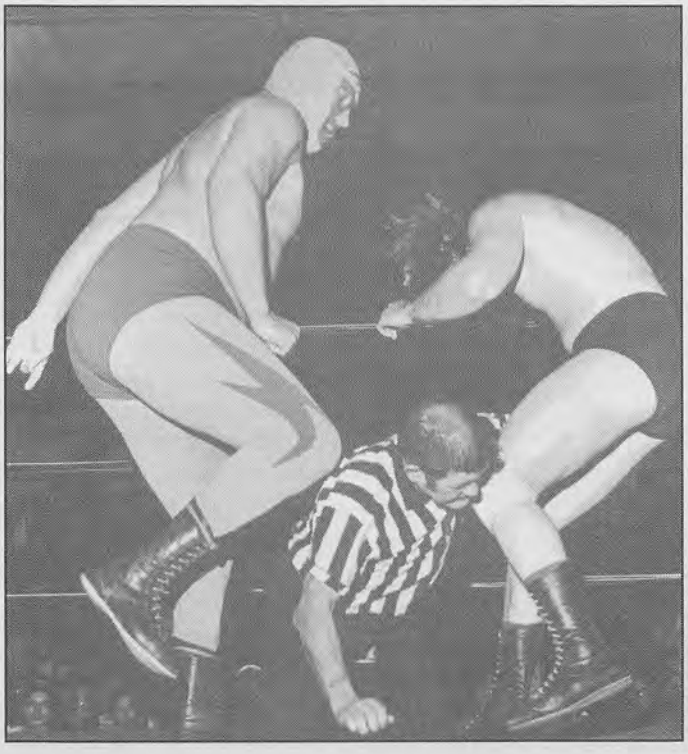


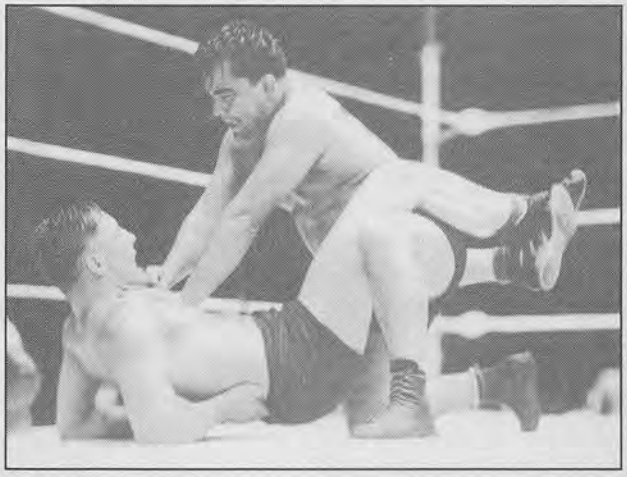
"DOGGONE IT, BABA, CAN WE GET STARTED ALREADY?"

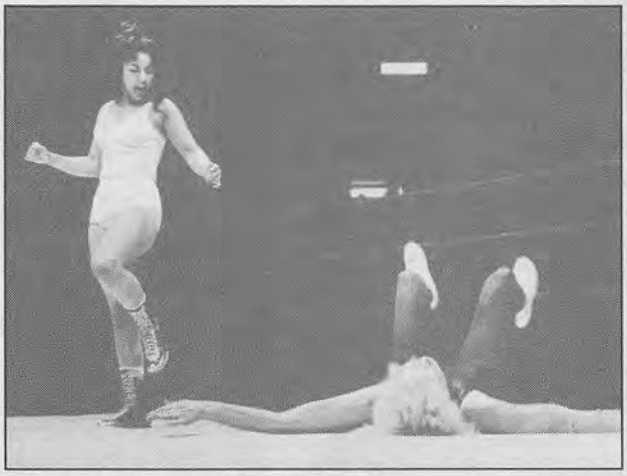
Although Shohei "Giant" Baba and Bruno Sammartino waged some spectacular wars over the years, Bruno was always decent enough to let Baba finish his prematch stomping ritual. Baba won the NWA title three times, but was never able to capture Bruno's WWWF belt. The Japanese legend died of cancer on January 31.



WOLFPAC IN DA HOUSE

If the NWO Wolfpac were around in the 1930s, Chief Little Wolf (shown trying to pin NWA World heavyweight champion Danno O'Mahony) would have been a natural choice to be the group's cruiserweight representative, despite the fact that he was pinned after 28 minutes here. At least nobody brought a taser into the ring.





WELCOME BACK, LADIES

Rita Cortez mocks Mary Jane Mull, whom she defeated in six minutes in this April 1964 match. It was the first women's match allowed in Michigan since 1941, when Mildred Burke defeated Zoska Burska.

STUCK BETWEEN A KNEE AND A HARD PLACE

Somehow, referee Bulldog Hines got tangled up with the principals and found himself on the receiving end of simultaneous knees from The Masked Zodiac and Jerry Oats. Even fan favorites wait for miscues like this so they can "accidentally" collide with an official.

the JAPAN REPORT

By Mike Spillane

JAPANESE WRESTLING legend **Shohei "Giant" Baba** lost his battle with cancer of the bowels on January 31 and died in Tokyo at the age of 61. Baba was the protege of **Rikidozan,** who was considered to be the father of *puroresu* (Japanese wrestling). Baba spent much of his career aspiring to the high standards that Rikidozan set and was instrumental in establishing the current form of wrestling in Japan. He and **Antonio Inoki** were the driving forces behind All-Japan and New Japan Pro Wrestling, respectively. Baba won three NWA World titles and many championships in his native land during his 38-year career.

All-Japan has had no shortage of action in the ring, as **Toshiaki Kawada** won the Triple Crown for a third time just nine days before Baba's death. Kawada's streak of bad luck continued, however, as he broke his arm in the match while executing a brainbuster against defending champ **Mitsuharu Misawa**. Kawada went on to win the match, but he was then ordered to take at least two months off to let the injury heal.

Where exactly does that leave the Triple Crown? Its status was a subject of much controversy, as All-Japan's administration was in disarray after Baba's death. Factions of AJPW officials argued over what should be done with their most prestigious championship. Some wanted Kawada to be allowed to defend the titles when he was well enough. Others wanted Misawa reinstated as champion. But it was eventually decided that the winner of a March 6 match between top contenders **Vader** against **Akira Taue** would be declared the new Triple Crown champion.

In the meantime, another title has changed hands. **Jinsei Shinzaki** and **Hayabusa** have defeated All-Japan Asian tag team champions **Jun Izumida** and **Tamon Honda** for the title. It was an unusual development considering that neither Hayabusa of FMW nor Shinzaki of Michinoku Pro considers AJPW his home promotion.

Japan lost one of its most beloved figures when Shohei "Giant" Baba, the president of All-Japan Pro Wrestling, died of cancer on January 31. He was 61.

New Japan's **Jushin "Thunder" Liger** will be taking some time off after injuring his left knee in an IWGP junior heavyweight title defense against Mexico's **Dr. Wagner Jr.** Fans can expect to see Liger back in the ring soon.

Masa Chono returned to active competition after finding treatment for his injured back. Chono is lobbying for a shot at **Keiji Muto's** IWGP heavyweight belt in the near future. He has even taken on some handicap matches to prepare for such a bout.

Chono hasn't been the only big name to return to New Japan recently. **Akira Nogami,** now called Akira, has also resurfaced. Akira, formerly associated with the **Heisei Ishingun** group, has yet to ally himself with any group within NJPW.

One member of **Kaientai Deluxe** has made his return to Michinoku Pro, and others might not be far behind. **Mens Teoh** has come back to the ailing promotion after the recent defection of most of its top stars. Many of the departing wrestlers, under the leadership of **Super Delfin,** are expected to start their own company in the spring.

Ultimo Dragon's Toryumon Gym has embarked on its first tour of Japan. One participant in the tour has been **The Great Sasuke,** who has abandoned his rule-breaking ways and embraced the fans once again. His former teammates, called **Crazy MAX,** were none too happy about Sasuke's change of heart and ambushed him on one of the cards. Much to Sasuke's surprise, **Taka Michinoku** appeared to save him from Crazy MAX. This might be an indicator of Taka's willingness to compete in Michinoku Pro again.

Soo da, sayonara! □

the MEXICO REPORT

By John Molinaro

EVEN THOUGH THE legendary **El Santo** died back in 1984, Mexico has not forgotten him. On February 5, EMLL held a special memorial card at Mexico City's Arena Coliseo to commemorate the 15th anniversary of his death. On that day, the promotion held a wake and a special mass in his memory. It also unveiled a special plaque and presented it to Santo's family (all 10 of his sons, including current EMLL star **El Hijo del Santo**, attended the services). Also in attendance were Lucha Libre legends **Blue Demon**, **Rey Mendoza** (the patriarch of the famous **Villano** family), **Karloff Lagarde Jr.**, and current AAA star **Perro Aguayo Sr.**, who made a surprise appearance.

El Santo was easily the most popular wrestler in Lucha history; he had name recognition in Mexico equal to that of **Elvis Presley** in the United States.

Later that day, EMLL presented a card at the Coliseo before a sellout crowd of 6,000. Those in attendance saw El Hijo del Santo and **Negro Casas** defeat **Scorpio Jr.** and **Bestia Salvaje** to win the CMLL tag team title. The *technicos* took the straps after Salvaje was disqualified for attacking Aguayo, who was sitting at ringside. After the match, Santo and Casas relinquished the belts to EMLL commentator **Dr. Alfonso Morales**, stating they didn't want to win the titles via DQ. The promotion has since scheduled a tournament to fill the vacancy.

As a result of the match, Santo and Scorpio are now embroiled in a bitter feud, and chances are the two will sign for a mask vs. mask match at EMLL's 67th anniversary show at Arena Mexico in September. That same anniversary show figures to host the last match of Perro Aguayo's career. Aguayo, the current Mexican national heavyweight champ and AAA star, recently said he wanted to wrestle his final match at Arena Mexico, the mecca of Mexican wrestling, on EMLL's anniversary show.

To put it in perspective, this would be akin to Ric Flair saying he wanted his last match ever to be held at Madison Square Garden—on a WWF show!

AAA held its *La Noche del Reves* card on January 29 in Tulancingo. On that card, **Rey Dragon** defeated **Mosco II** in a mask vs. mask match, and **Octagon**, **Heavy Metal**, and **Perro Aguayo Jr.** defeated **Pentagon**, **Kickboxer**, and **Sangre Chicana** by disqualification in the main event ... **Abismo Negro** dropped the Mexican national middleweight title to **Espectro Jr.** on January 27 in Ecatepac ... **Mr. Condor** is competing in the promotion under his old name after using the name **Al Capone** and sporting a mask for the past two years ... The **Los Vipers-Los Vatos Locos** feud continues to rage on, with no apparent end in sight.

Rey Misterio Jr. defeated nemesis **Psicosis** in the finals of the David Trophy tournament on January 28 at Auditorio de Tijuana. A crowd of 4,000 watched Rey Jr. score the pin after **Rey Misterio Sr.**, the uncle with whom he is at odds, came down to ringside and accidentally nailed Psicosis (he was trying to hit Rey Jr.) with a chair.

After the match, Rey Jr. issued another challenge to Psicosis, and the two will soon be facing off in a mask vs. mask match. Will the Auditorio, nicknamed the "Graveyard Of Masks," claim another victim in what will be the biggest match of 1999 in Mexico?

In the main event of the David Trophy Tournament card, El Hijo del Santo, Konnan, and La Parka defeated **Villano III**, **Norman Smiley**, and **Silver King**.

Over in Grupo Revolucion, **Bombero Infernal** defeated **Mr. Niebla II** on January 10 in Naucalpan to capture the IWRG Intercontinental middleweight title. On January 24 in Naucalpan, **Los Oficials** (**Guardian**, **Vigilante**, and **Oficial**) successfully defended the Mexican national trios title against **Los Brazos** in the main event. Rumors have been circulating that Los Oficials are considering making the jump to AAA. Meanwhile, recent arrivals in Grupo Revolucion include **Super Parka**, **Mascara Sagrada**, and former AAA star **Halcon Dorado Jr.** □

El Hijo del Santo and Negro Casas won the CMLL tag team title on the 15th anniversary of the death of El Santo, Hijo's father. They weren't happy with their win, though.

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

TOP 10

1 STEVE AUSTIN
252, Victoria, TX
(5) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

2 BILL GOLDBERG
270, Tulsa, OK
(2) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

3 ROCKY MAIVIA
272, Miami, FL
(3) WWF World champion

4 STING
260, Venice Beach, CA
(–) No. 3 contender: WCW World title

5 MANKIND
277, Truth or Consequences, NM
(1) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

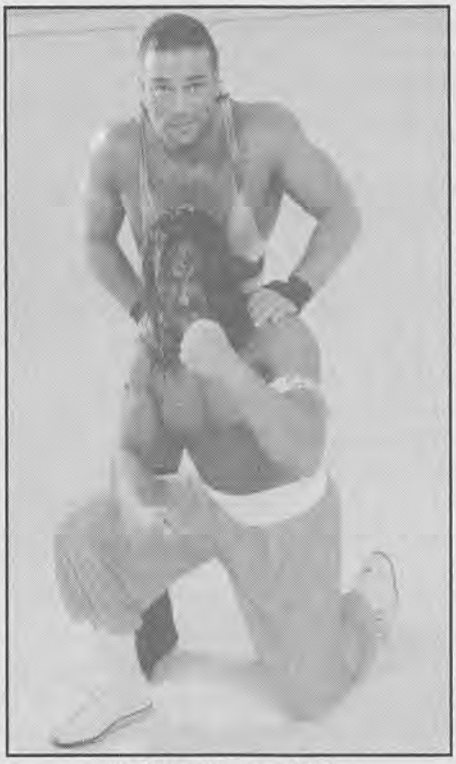
6 RIC FLAIR
243, Charlotte, NC
(–) No. 4 contender: WCW World title

7 KANE
345, parts unknown
(7) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

8 SCOTT STEINER
251, Detroit, MI
(8) WCW TV champion

9 THE UNDERTAKER
328, parts unknown
(–) No. 5 contender: WWF World title

10 TAZ
248, Red Hook, NY
(10) ECW heavyweight champion



Rob Van Dam and Sabu

TAG TEAMS

1 OWEN HART & JEFF JARRETT
Combined weight: 457 pounds
(1) WWF World tag team champions

2 SABU & ROB VAN DAM
Combined weight: 457 pounds
(2) ECW tag team champions

3 CURT HENNIG & BARRY WINDHAM
Combined weight: 508 pounds
(–) WCW World tag team champions

4 HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY & X-PAC
Combined weight: 491 pounds
(–) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

5 JUN AKIYAMA & KENTA KOBASHI
Combined weight: 491 pounds
(4) All-Japan International tag team champions

6 SATOSHI KOJIMA & HIROYOSHI TENZAN
Combined weight: 493 pounds
(3) IWGP International tag team champions

7 STEVE AUSTIN & MANKIND
Combined weight: 529 pounds
(–) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

8 BUH BUH RAY & D-VON DUDLEY
Combined weight: 585 pounds
(8) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

9 CHRIS BENOIT & DEAN MALENKO
Combined weight: 434 pounds
(–) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

10 STAN HANSEN & VADER
Combined weight: 772 pounds
(–) No. 1 contenders: All-Japan International tag title

WCW

World Champion:
HOLLYWOOD HOGAN
(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA

1—SCOTT HALL
(–) 290, Miami, FL
2—BILL GOLDBERG
(2) 270, Tulsa, OK
3—STING
(7) 260, Venice Beach, CA
4—RIC FLAIR
(8) 243, Charlotte, NC
5—SCOTT STEINER
(5) 251, Detroit, MI
6—BILLY KIDMAN
(6) 195, Allentown, PA
7—REY MISTERIO JR.
(–) 140, San Diego, CA
8—BOOKER T
(–) 250, Harlem, NY
9—KEVIN NASH
(3) 356, Detroit, MI
10—DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE
(4) 260, Tampa, FL

WWF

World Champion:
ROCKY MAIVIA
(2) 272, Miami, FL

1—VAL VENIS
(–) 250, Las Vegas, NV
2—STEVE AUSTIN
(3) 252, Victoria, TX
3—MANKIND
(C) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
4—KANE
(4) 345, parts unknown
5—THE UNDERTAKER
(5) 328, parts unknown
6—KEN SHAMROCK
(1) 235, San Bernardino, CA
7—HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY
(9) 279, Greenwich, CT
8—BILLY GUNN
(7) 256, Austin, TX
9—X-PAC
(6) 212, Minneapolis, MN
10—OWEN HART
(–) 227, Calgary, Alberta

ECW

ECW Champion:
TAZ
(C) 248, Red Hook, NY

1—ROB VAN DAM
(1) 237, Battle Creek, MI
2—SABU
(3) 220, Bombay
3—TOMMY DREAMER
(2) 245, Yonkers, NY
4—SHANE DOUGLAS
(4) 240, Pittsburgh, PA
5—SID VICIOUS
(10) 318, West Memphis, AR
6—JUSTIN CREDIBLE
(6) 225, Waterbury, CT
7—JERRY LYNN
(–) 214, Minneapolis, MN
8—MAHONEY
(–) 361, Carteret, NJ
9—YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI
(9) 224, Tokyo, Japan
10—SUPER CRAZY
(–) 172, Mexico City, Mexico

NWA

NWA Champion:
DAN SEVERN
(C) 265, Detroit, MI

1—COLORADO KID
(2) 231, Denver, CO
2—E.Z. RYDER
(3) 230, Dallas, TX
3—DOUG GILBERT
(1) 241, Lexington, TN
4—NAOYA OGAWA
(–) 286, Tokyo, Japan
5—SAMU
(4) 310, Allentown, PA
6—MIKE ROSELLI
(–) 265, Vancouver, British Columbia
7—ROD STEELE
(–) 235, Dayton, OH
8—BRIAN ADIAS
(–) 228, Dallas, TX
9—SKULL GANZ
(9) 255, Detroit, MI
10—BIGGIE BIGGS
(–) 303, Perth Amboy, NJ

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended March 5, 1999

ALL-PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Michael Modest; **1**—Christopher Daniels; **2**—Maxx Justice; **3**—Robert Thompson; **4**—Frank Murdoch; **5**—Tony Jones; **6**—Vinny Massaro; **7**—Jimmy Ripp; **8**—Boyce LeGrande; **9**—Chris Ward; **10**—Chicano Flame II.

EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION: Champion—Christian Cage; **1**—Steve Bradley; **2**—Lance Diamond; **3**—Stevie Richards; **4**—Reckless Youth; **5**—Mr. Ooh La La; **6**—Ace Darling; **7**—Storm; **8**—Mark Shrader; **9**—Mike Quackenbush; **10**—Jeff Peterson.

INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION: Champion—Rik Ratchet; **1**—Ace Darling; **2**—Lupus; **3**—Flash Wheeler; **4**—Twiggy Ramirez; **5**—Lance Diamond; **6**—Kevin Knight; **7**—Steve Corino; **8**—Don Montoya; **9**—Harley Lewis; **10**—Biggie Biggs.

MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—King Kong Bundy; **1**—Romeo Valentino; **2**—Tom Brandi; **3**—Corporal Punishment; **4**—The Bruiser; **5**—Axl Rotten; **6**—Lance Diamond; **7**—Jimmy Cicero; **8**—Julio Sanchez; **9**—Mad Dog O'Malley; **10**—Cueball Carmichael.

MID-SOUTH WRESTLING: Champion—Mr. Wrestling III; **1**—Crazy Joe; **2**—Kevin Northcutt; **3**—Mercury McCloud; **4**—Elijah; **5**—John Saxon; **6**—Blayze; **7**—Terry Bryant; **8**—Truth; **9**—Stan Sweetan; **10**—Al Walker.

MUSIC CITY WRESTLING: Champion—Colorado Kid; **1**—Chris Michaels; **2**—Ashley Hudson; **3**—Steven Dunn; **4**—Chad Hawke; **5**—Bart Sawyer; **6**—Barnyard Briggs; **7**—Shane Eden; **8**—Frenchy Riviera; **9**—Alcatraz; **10**—Faron Foxx.

NWA TEXAS: Champion—Redd Dogg Begnaud; **1**—Khris Germany; **2**—Jimmy James; **3**—Kit Karson; **4**—Chris Young; **5**—Cedric of Hollywood; **6**—Bull Schmidt; **7**—Canyon; **8**—Super T.; **9**—New Dr. X; **10**—Kurt Reigns.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Christian Cage; **1**—Ace Darling; **2**—Lance Diamond; **3**—Flash Flanagan; **4**—Julio Sanchez; **5**—Glen Osbourne; **6**—Reckless Youth; **7**—Tommy Golden; **8**—Mike Quackenbush; **9**—Mr. Ooh La La; **10**—Armageddon.

SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Cueball Carmichael; **1**—C.W. Anderson; **2**—Boris Dragoff; **3**—Otto Schwanz; **4**—Toad; **5**—Matt Hardy; **6**—Major DeBeers; **7**—Big Slam; **8**—Jeff Hardy; **9**—Venom; **10**—Chilly Willy.

UNIVERSAL FIGHTING ARTS: Champion—Title Vacant; **1**—Naoya Ogawa; **2**—Don Frye; **3**—Brian Johnston; **4**—Gerard Gordeal; **5**—Tiger Mask I; **6**—Igor Meindart; **7**—David Beneteau; **8**—Murakami Kazunari; **9**—Lee Young Gun; **10**—Tiger Mask IV.

WORLD LEGION WRESTLING: Champion—Steve Sharp; **1**—Greg Valentine; **2**—Derick Stone; **3**—King Mabel; **4**—Luminous; **5**—Brian Lee; **6**—Jake Roberts; **7**—Kevin Sharp; **8**—Butch Reed; **9**—Drill Instructor; **10**—Blade Boudreaux.

WORLD X-TREME WRESTLING: Champion—John Rambo; **1**—Samu; **2**—Hungarian Barbarian; **3**—King Kong Bundy; **4**—N.J. Devil; **5**—Ox Hog; **6**—Mad Russian; **7**—Jimmy Snuka; **8**—Texas Outlaw; **9**—Kale; **10**—Vincent Goodnite.

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:
KEIJI MUTO
(C) 245, Tokyo, Japan

1—JUSHIN LIGER
(1) 206, Hiroshima, Japan
2—KENSUKE SASAKI
(2) 233, Tokyo, Japan
3—HIROYOSHI TENZAN
(7) 270, Tokyo, Japan
4—ATSUSHI ONITA
(3) 221, Nagasaki, Japan
5—NAOYA OGAWA
(4) 286, Tokyo, Japan
6—KOJI KANEMOTO
(6) 205, Osaka, Japan
7—SATOSHI KOJIMA
(9) 223, Tokyo, Japan
8—SCOTT NORTON
(–) 360, Minneapolis, MN
9—SHIRO KOSHINAKA
(8) 225, Tokyo, Japan
10—DON FRYE
(5) 205, Sierra Vista, AZ

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:
TITLES VACANT

1—VADER
(3) 450, Denver, CO
2—AKIRA TAUE
(5) 265, Tokyo, Japan
3—KENTA KOBASHI
(4) 261, Tokyo, Japan
4—MITSUHARU MISAWA
(2) 228, Saitama, Japan
5—TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(1) 245, Tizhigi, Japan
6—JUN AKIYAMA
(6) 230, Hiroshima, Japan
7—STAN HANSEN
(7) 322, Borger, TX
8—YOSHINARI OGAWA
(8) 202, Fichigi, Japan
9—TAKAO OMORI
(10) 221, Tokyo, Japan
10—JINSEI SHINZAKI
(–) 223, Tokyo, Japan

EMLL

EMLL Champion:
RAYO DE JALISCO JR.
(C) 270, Guadalajara, Mexico

1—EL HIJO DEL SANTO
(1) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico
2—SCORPIO JR.
(–) 195, Nezahaulcoyoti, Mexico
3—NEGRO CASAS
(2) 175, Mexico City, Mexico
4—ULTIMO GUERRERO
(4) 173, Mexico City, Mexico
5—ZUMBIDO
(5) 210, Acapulco, Mexico
6—SILVER KING
(6) 245, Coahuela, Mexico
7—BLACK WARRIOR
(–) 221, Mexico City, Mexico
8—DR. WAGNER JR.
(–) 215, Mexico City, Mexico
9—EMILIO CHARLES JR.
(3) 222, Mexico City, Mexico
10—FUERZA GUERRERA
(10) 180, Mexico City, Mexico

AAA

AAA Champion:
PERRO AGUAYO
(C) 220, Zacatecas, Mexico

1—HEAVY METAL
(2) 180, Mexico City, Mexico
2—PENTAGON
(3) 175, Pachuca, Mexico
3—OCTAGON
(4) 180, Monterrey, Mexico
4—ABISMO NEGRO
(1) 210, Pachua, Mexico
5—CHARLY MANSON
(–) 221, Mexico City, Mexico
6—JERRY ESTRADA
(–) 239, Montclova, Mexico
7—PERRO AGUAYO JR.
(5) 165, Zacatecas, Mexico
8—BLUE DEMON JR.
(6) 180, Toluca, Mexico
9—LATIN LOVER
(7) 190, Monterrey, Mexico
10—MOSCO MERCED II
(10) 221, parts unknown

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 22 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Scott and Val don't make the cut ... One of the first things you'll notice when you look at our Top 10 for this issue is that the most important secondary champions in both WCW and the WWF are *not* in it.

Val Venis

Let's explain. First of all, there's **Scott Hall**. He needed a lot of help to capture the U.S. title from **Roddy Piper** at SuperBrawl IX. First, **Disco Inferno** interfered in their match (Piper fought him off), then **Kevin Nash** got involved and the "Rowdy Scot" was doomed. Hall pinned Piper after Nash interfered, but he had to put his feet on the ropes to make sure he'd get the win. Not exactly a victory of which he should be proud.

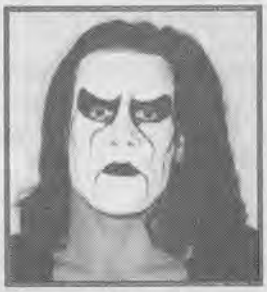
But since we see so few clean victories in matches in which WCW and WWF titles change hands, we would have considered giving him a Top 10 spot had he shown us something in some of his subsequent title defenses. But that wasn't possible. As of press time for this magazine, he was still nursing an ankle injury he suffered in a freak accident just hours after SuperBrawl ended.

Apparently, Hall was chatting with a friend in a hotel parking lot when a car backed over his foot. So we just can't justify putting him in at the expense of other WCW standouts such as TV champ **Scott Steiner**, who now has a handful of impressive victories over **"Diamond" Dallas Page** to his credit, or **Ric Flair**, who seemingly had **Hollywood Hogan** beaten for the World title at SuperBrawl before his son **David** stunned him with a taser, essentially handing Hogan the win.

What about **Val Venis**? He didn't impress us with his win over **Ken Shamrock** for the Intercontinental title at St. Valentine's Day Massacre. After all, he got a ridiculously fast three-count from guest referee **Billy Gunn**. Though Venis did pin Gunn cleanly the night after SVDM, he has looked a bit shaky in some recent bouts. He lost one non-title match to **Goldust** and struggled against Shamrock in rematches, only managing to beat him by disqualification.

Venis has a lot of talent, but we thought other WWF stars such as **Steve Austin**, **Mankind**, **Kane**, and **The Undertaker** (not to mention World champion **Rocky Maivia**) were more deserving of spots in the Top 10 this month.

Sting screws Sting? By now you've probably read about the Ric Flair-**Sting** controversy on page 32. Decide for yourself whether you believe the "Nature Boy" is/was out to get the "Stinger." But we have to wonder why Sting hasn't been more aggressive in his title pursuit. As of press time, it had been more than four months since his last appearance on WCW TV.



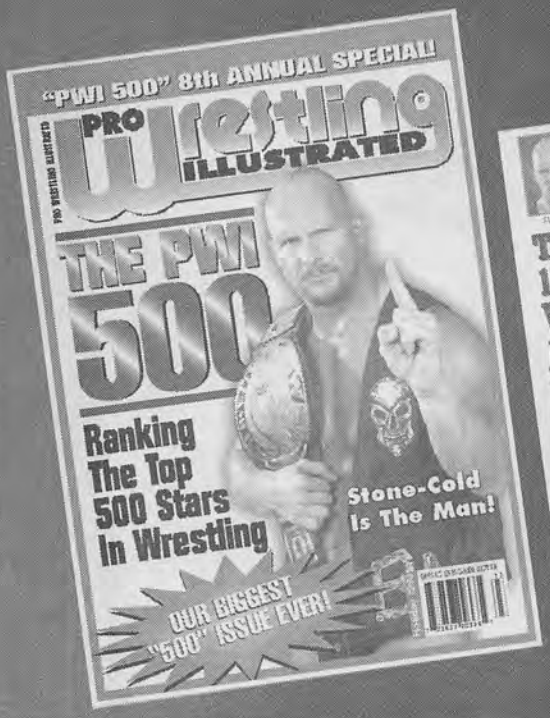
Sting

He's happy to take matches against big-time opposition such as **Bret Hart** and **Bam Bam Bigelow** on arena cards, yet he's not looking for any TV exposure? Seems a little unusual for a superstar wrestler. Sting would be completely justified in showing up unannounced on *Nitro*, explaining that he had been winning *all* his matches of late, and *demanding* a shot at the U.S. or World title.

We think he has earned a title shot or two. How many times have we seen a wrestler show up on *Nitro* (or *Raw*) demanding either a title match or a grudge match with an arch-rival that very night? Those matches are almost always signed within minutes. We have Sting ranked number four in the Top 10, for goodness sake, and a lot of fans probably aren't even aware that he's wrestling regularly again!

Maybe he doesn't want to get mixed up in another WCW-NWO war. Maybe he doesn't want to have to deal with the pressure of being a leader of the WCW forces. It's hard to tell, but it's a shame that Sting is wrestling so well and not seeking big matches.

That's it for now. As always, if you have any comments or questions pertaining to our ratings or anything you see on this page, we would love to hear from you. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □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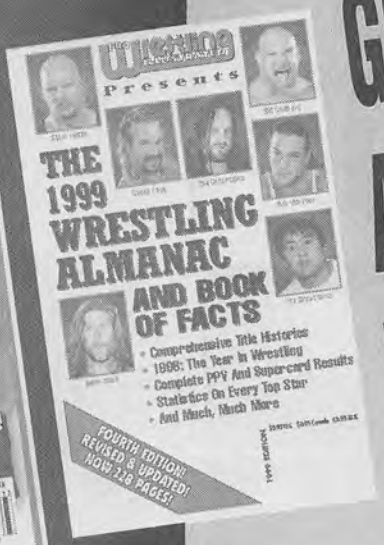
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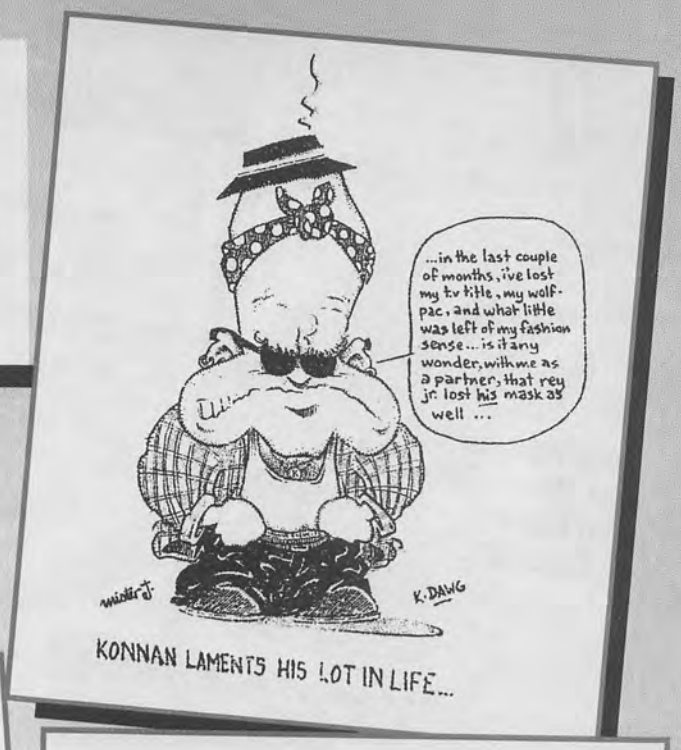
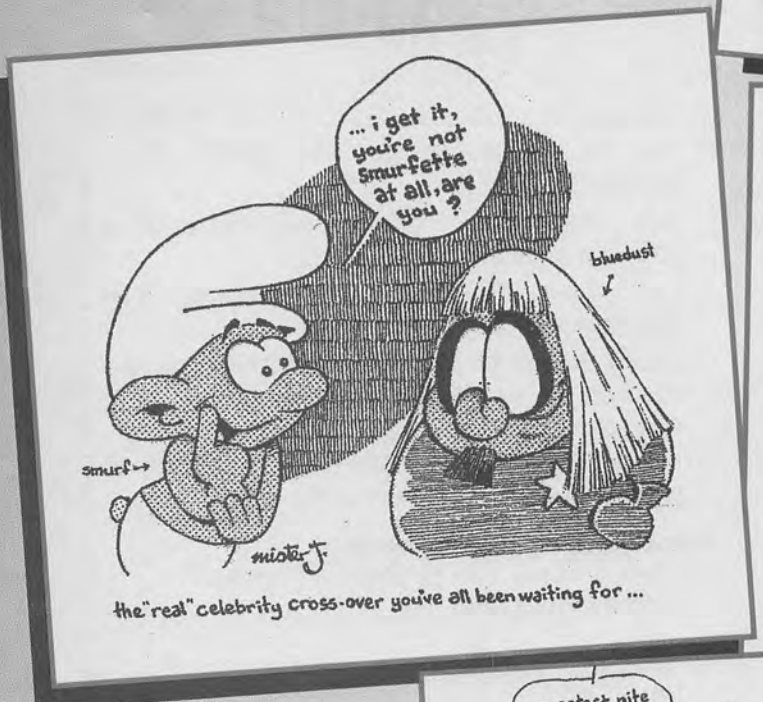
drawing BLOOD

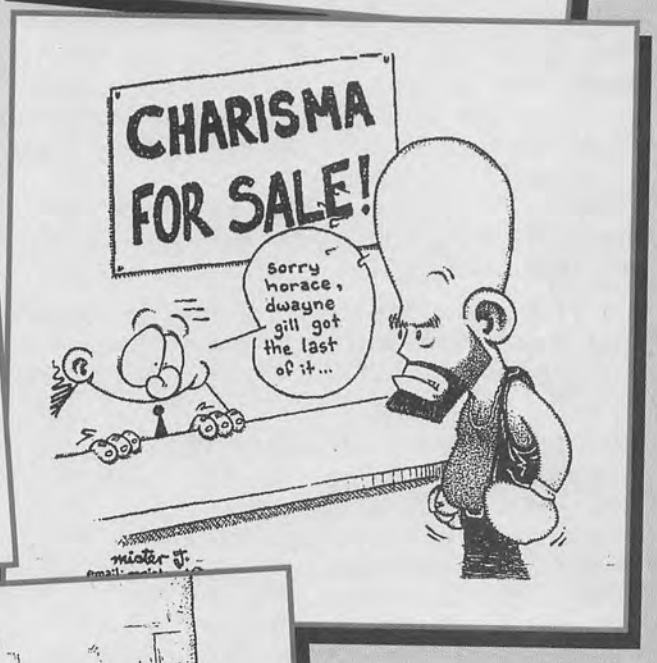
By Jason Conlan

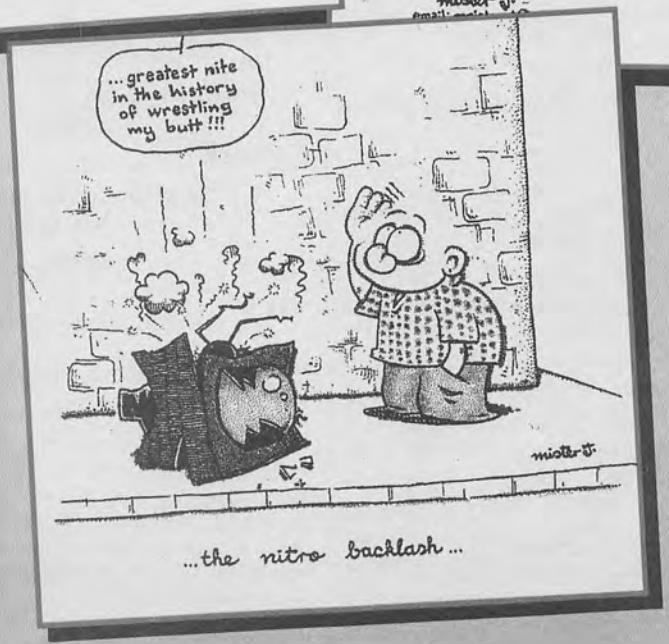

...in the last couple of months, i've lost my tv title, my wolf-pac, and what little was left of my fashion sense... is it any wonder, with me as a partner, that rey jr. lost his mask as well ...
mister J.
K. DAWG

KONNAN LAMENTS HIS LOT IN LIFE...



the "real" celebrity cross-over you've all been waiting for ...





...the nitro backlash...

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INDY WRESTLER KILLED IN DOMESTIC DISPUTE
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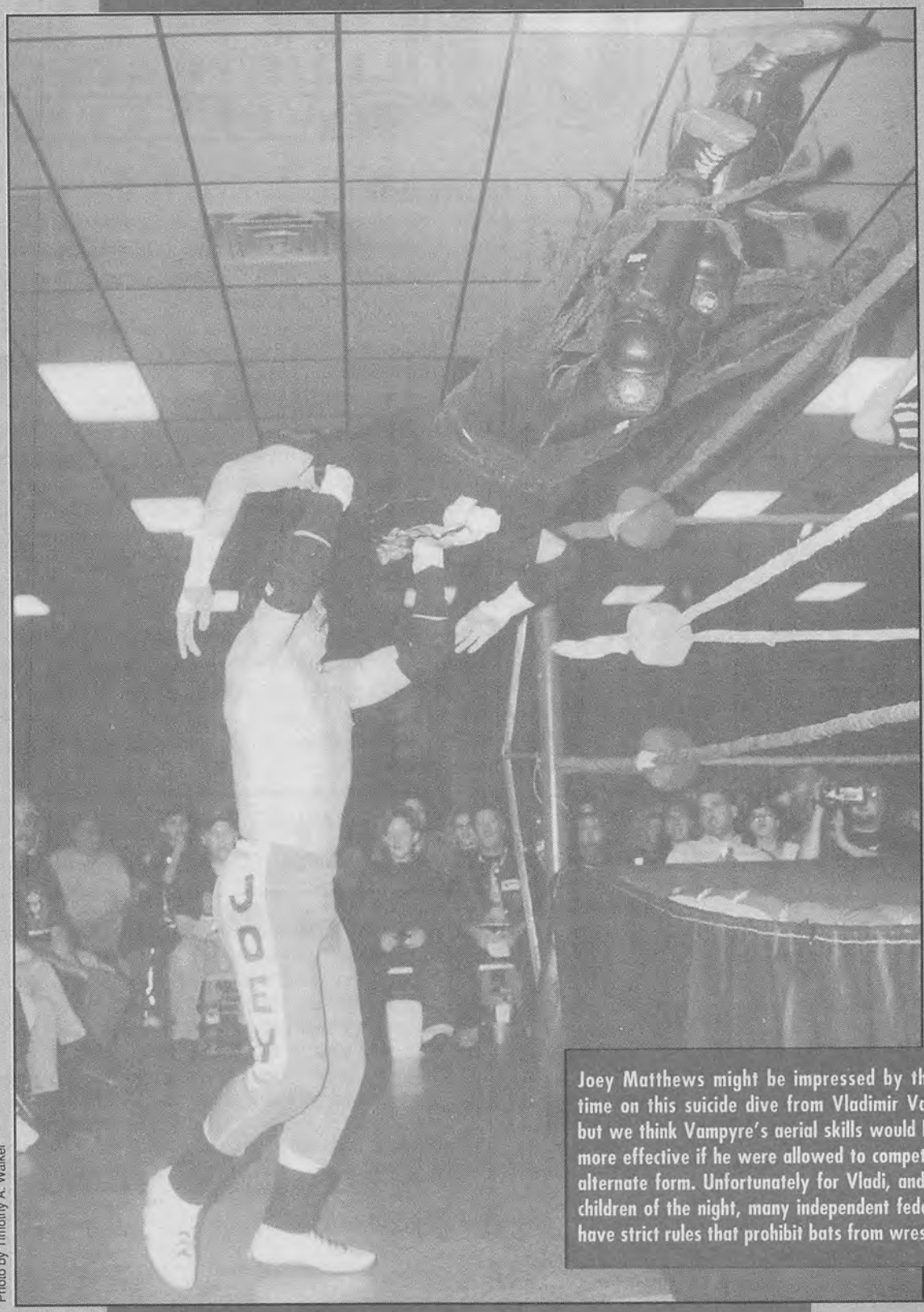

Photo by Timothy A. Walker

Joey Matthews might be impressed by the hang time on this suicide dive from Vladimir Vampyre, but we think Vampyre's aerial skills would be even more effective if he were allowed to compete in his alternate form. Unfortunately for Vladi, and for his children of the night, many independent federations have strict rules that prohibit bats from wrestling.

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